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25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

JANUARY
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IN THIS ISSUE

- **FLEXIBLE LIVING AREAS**
- **FAMILY KITCHENS**
- **COMPACT BEDROOMS**
- **SLEEK BATHROOMS**

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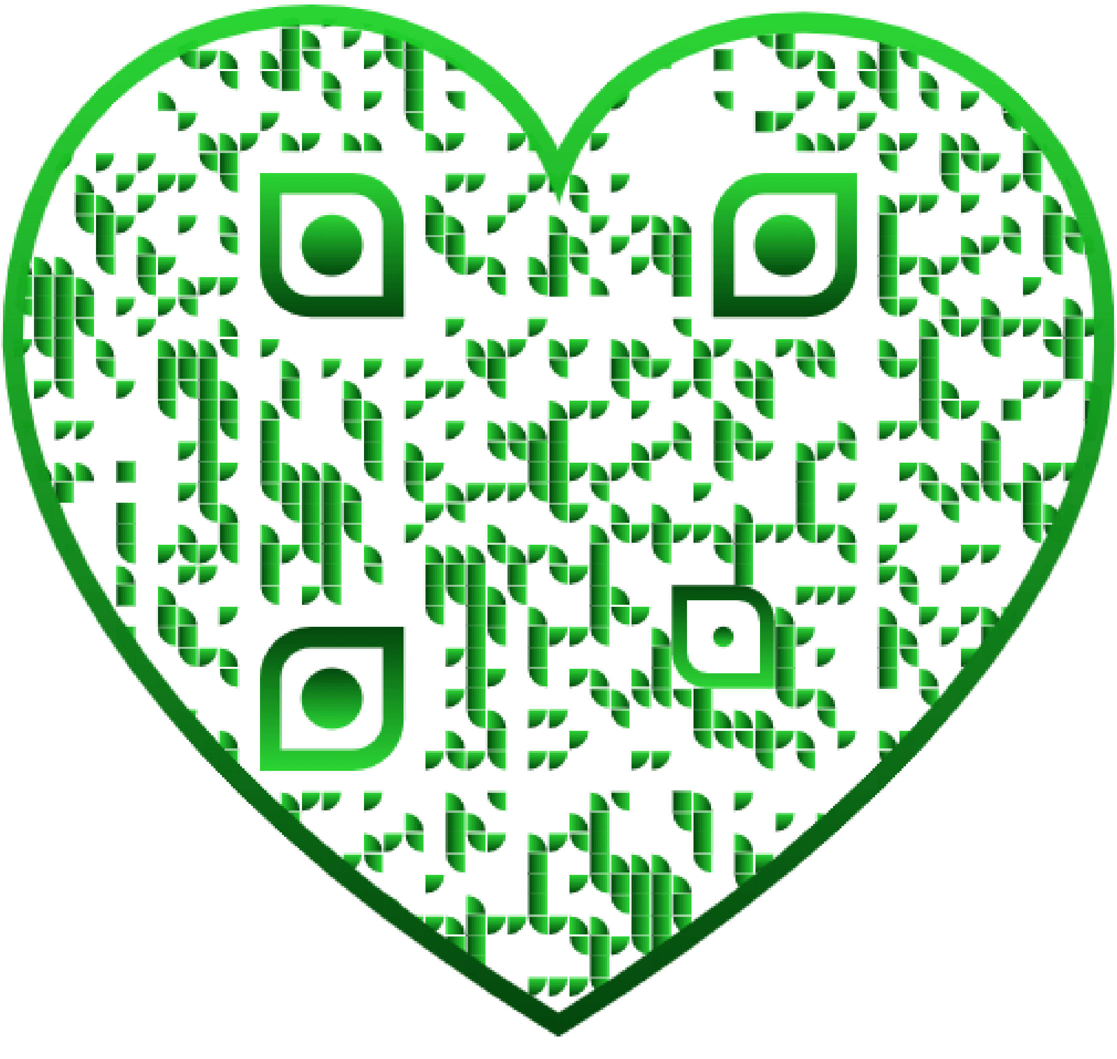

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25 BEAUTIFUL
HOMES

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January 2025

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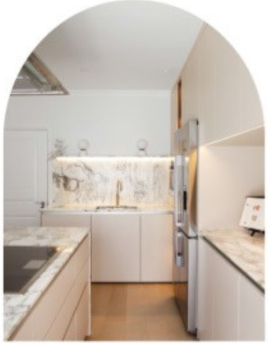

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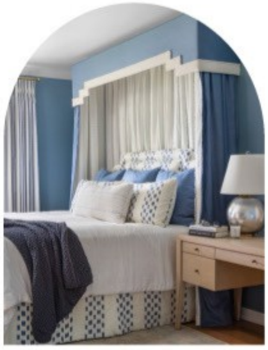

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Welcome

Natural decorations with an abundance of texture are definitely in favour this year judging by the majority of our Christmas houses. For Claire Georghiades and Chris Mitsis, a simple combination of fairy lights and foliage brings out the magic of their thatched cottage in West Sussex (p28). Chelsea Nelson takes a similar approach in the London home she shares with her partner and their young son (p69) – it's all about keeping it simple with foraged branches, twigs and fir cones 'to dress it up a bit'. Even in her 19th-century French country house, Valérie Le Montage prefers a pared-back festive style as a backdrop to family gatherings (p82). Wherever you're celebrating, have a very happy Christmas.

FIONA MACE, EDITOR

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MANAGEMENT
Managing Director Jason Orme
Senior Vice President, Consumer Kevin Addley
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SYNDICATION
Sales Executive Efi Mandrides
(efi.mandrides@futurenet.com)

CIRCULATION
Circulation Manager Henry Smith
(henry.smith@futurenet.com)

ADVERTISING
Head of Commercial Liz Jazayeri (liz.jazayeri@futurenet.com)
Ad Director Victoria Vatistas (victoria.vatistas@futurenet.com)
International/Luxury Accounts Manager Carole Bunce
(carole.bunce@futurenet.com)

INSERT SALES
Canopy Media Michael Davie (020 7611 1062)
Insert Sales Manager Katherine Brown (07464 544375)

PRODUCTION
Art Production Director Nicola Tillman
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Recycle

| HOUSE OF THE MONTH |

HAPPY *HOLIDAYS*

In the grounds of her family's farm, Onitha Jarrold has overseen the building of a modern home – the sort that lends itself to memorable and merry gatherings

WORDS CIARA ELLIOTT/RUTH CORBETT | **PHOTOGRAPHY** RACHAEL SMITH/LIVING INSIDE

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
A barn conversion built in 2017

ROOMS Kitchen-diner/living area, walk-in larder, utility room, snug, six bedrooms, four bathrooms

LOCATION Suffolk

LIVING AREA
The family like to have a big tree in the main room where they gather to exchange gifts on Christmas morning.
Mid-century Danish sofa, uk-dk.co.uk. For similar pendant lights, try Jet black cotton lampshades with gold lining, Love Frankie. Hand-carved wooden trees (left), Oliver Darton Design at Vanil

I used to mentally walk through the house every night as I was falling asleep, trying to envisage how the layout would work,’ says Onitha Jarrold, who, with her husband Dan, developed the site for their new home on the grounds of her old family home.

The couple wanted to incorporate as much eco-conscious design as possible into the build. The floors throughout the downstairs are 300-year-old oak planks, reclaimed from a French chateau, while much of the furniture is vintage. ‘There is very little that has been bought new for the interiors, but the barn, as a self-build, uses mostly modern materials,’ explains Onitha. ‘This could have made it feel a little austere, but surrounding ourselves with meaningful pieces of furniture that have a story to tell, and that we have put a little extra effort and love into, helps to give it a sense of character and honesty.’

The kitchen, a vast flexible space, has beautiful Shaker-style ash units made by a local cabinetmaker, while the island unit is a vintage architect’s plan chest. ‘I love the history behind it. Imagine the stories it could tell from its life in a busy shop!’

The stair tower is located where the original barn’s threshing porch would have been, were it is still standing. Its exterior is clad in oak and painted black, as a reference to its predecessor. The rest of the structure is clad in cedar, which silvers over time, allowing the building to blend into the landscape. ‘The stair tower has 30 small letter box windows and an unobtrusive front door,’ says Onitha. ‘The idea was to create a subtle outside, while inside creating ever-changing, miniature views of the landscape.’

> ‘Christmas is about spending time with friends and family, having fun and lots of laughter but also a chance to slow down and have time to reset’

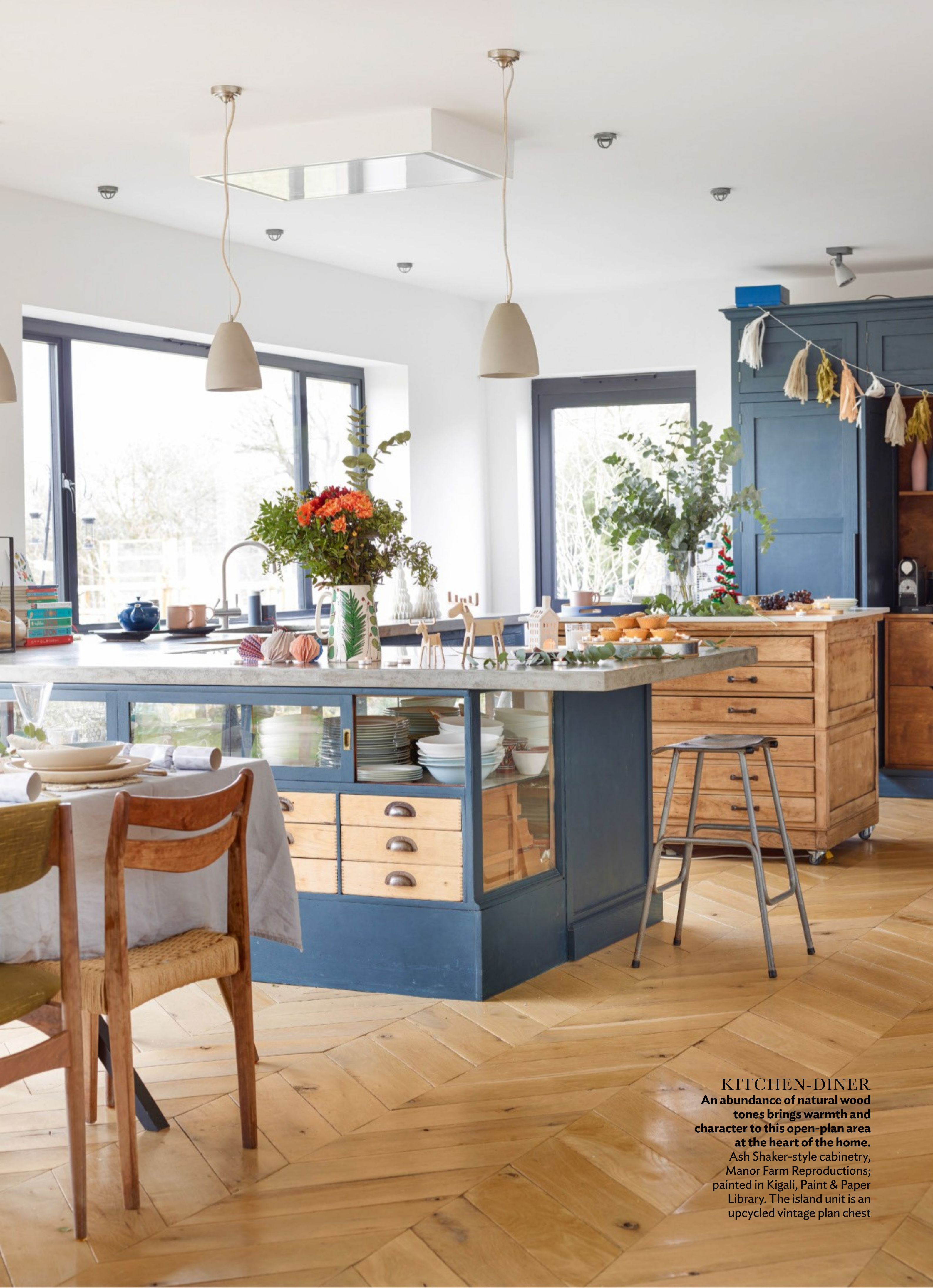
Upstairs, light oak flooring adds a Scandinavian feel, while textures such as sheepskin, linen and soft upholstery in the bedrooms keep the cosy factor high. Onitha, who loves to upcycle, found the roll-top slipper bath at a local auction and repainted it pink. For the cabinet, retro-style legs and handles were fitted for a bespoke look, while leftover floor tiles have been repurposed as a splashback for the basin.

At Christmas time, Onitha, who runs furniture refurbishment business Rekindled, likes to keep the decor simple and classic with natural colours, fairy lights, foraged greenery and dried flowers. ‘Mostly these come from local creative businesses,’ she says. ‘I love discovering new makers and these pieces have much more meaning than the shop-bought ones.

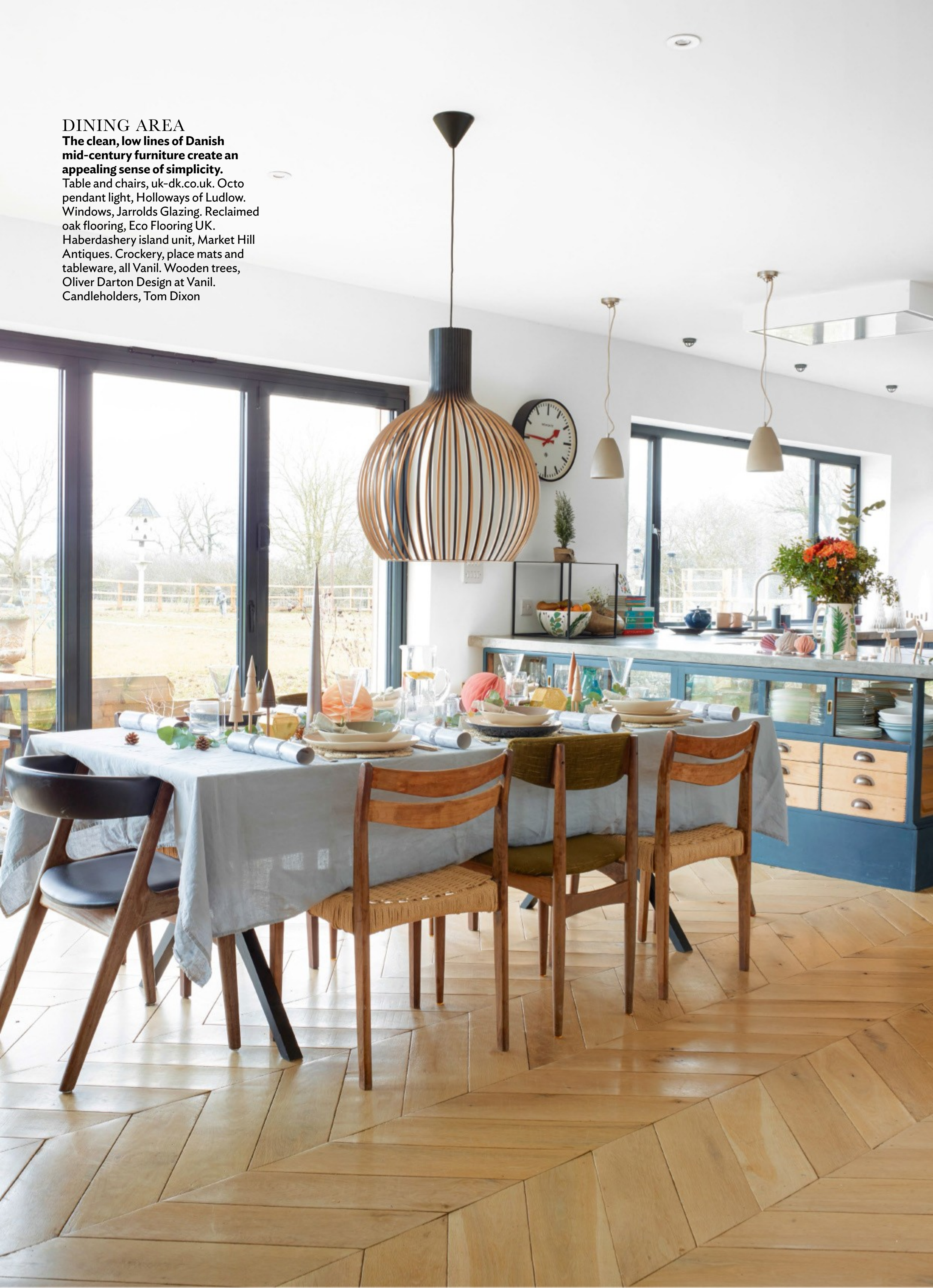
‘I make as many of my own decorations as I can, too, and I get our teenagers involved in the run-up – making paper chains, crackers and salt dough decorations. The hanging circular wreath was made using an old lampshade ring as the frame. I wrapped a string of fairy lights around it, attached the tree trimmings to it using florist’s wire and then added some red berries for a bit of colour.’

One Christmas tradition Onitha has had to forgo is the opening of presents in order of age (there were eight of them) only after lunch has been eaten and the washing-up done. ‘It took ages and was torture, but also made each gift really special and memorable,’ she says. ‘I tried to continue this tradition with my own family, but the idea didn’t go down well at all!’ ㉕

@_rekindled

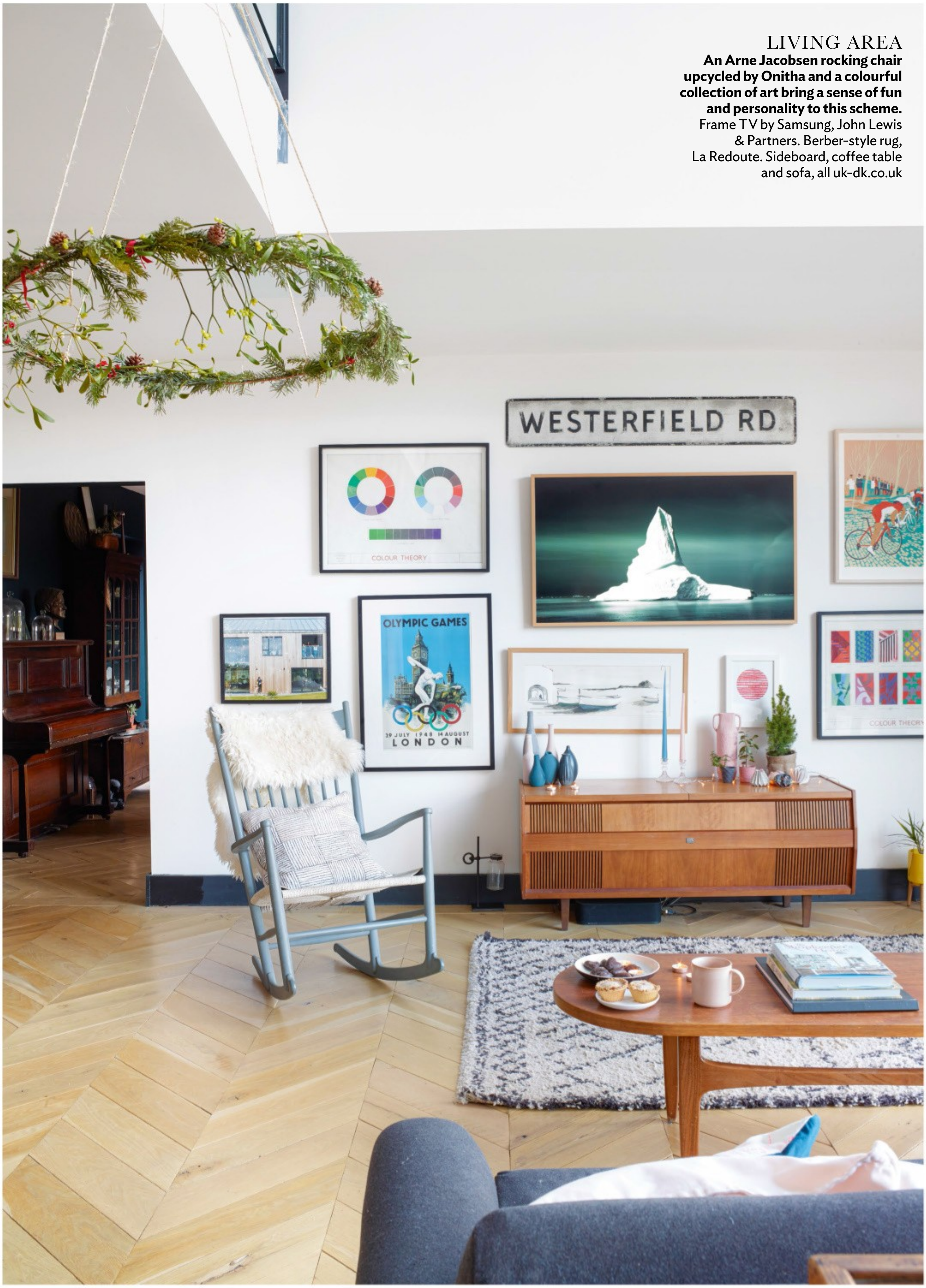


KITCHEN-DINER
An abundance of natural wood tones brings warmth and character to this open-plan area at the heart of the home. Ash Shaker-style cabinetry, Manor Farm Reproductions; painted in Kigali, Paint & Paper Library. The island unit is an upcycled vintage plan chest



DINING AREA

The clean, low lines of Danish mid-century furniture create an appealing sense of simplicity. Table and chairs, uk-dk.co.uk. Octo pendant light, Holloways of Ludlow. Windows, Jarrolds Glazing. Reclaimed oak flooring, Eco Flooring UK. Haberdashery island unit, Market Hill Antiques. Crockery, place mats and tableware, all Vanil. Wooden trees, Oliver Darton Design at Vanil. Candleholders, Tom Dixon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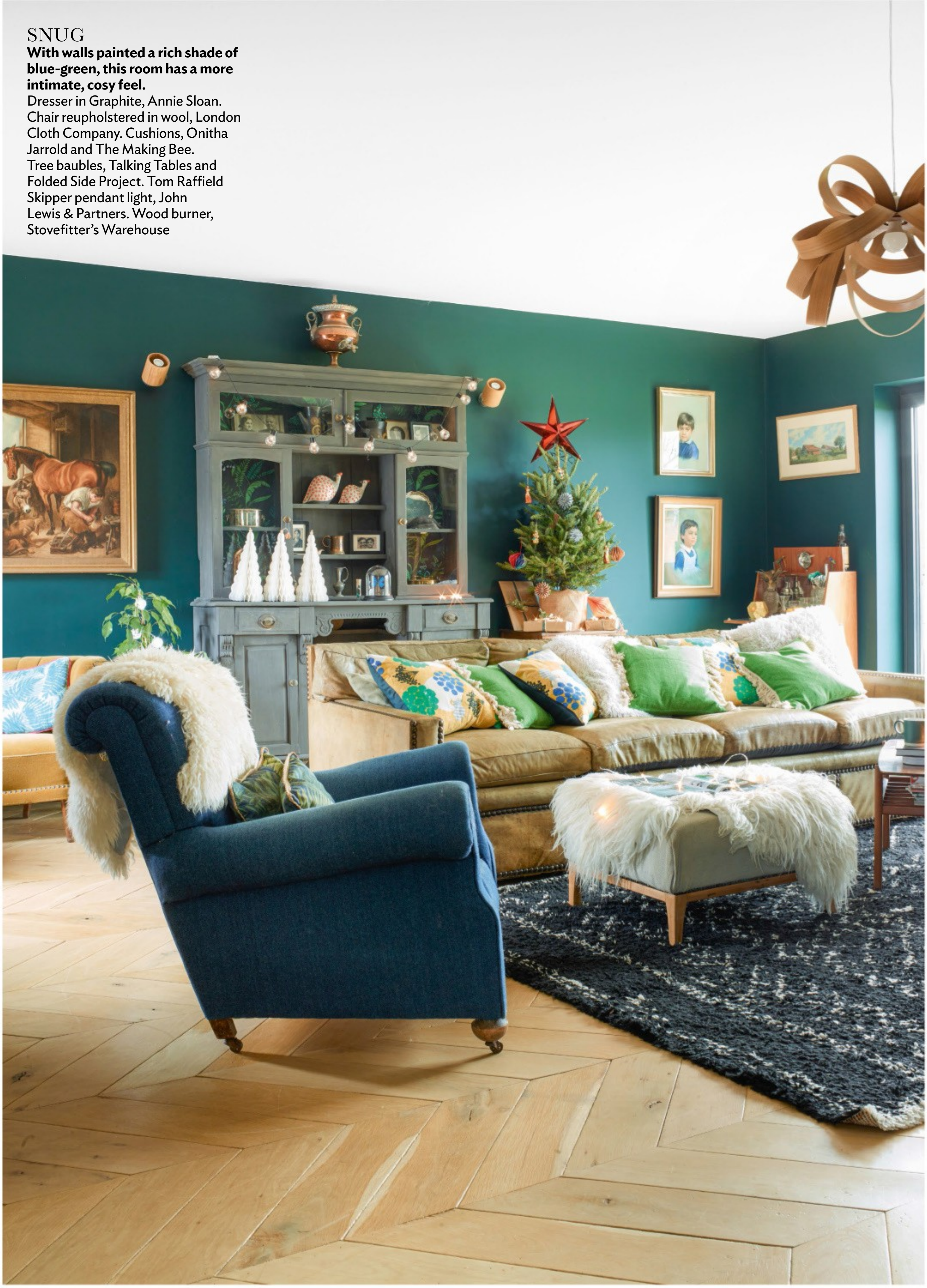
LIVING AREA

An Arne Jacobsen rocking chair upcycled by Onitha and a colourful collection of art bring a sense of fun and personality to this scheme. Frame TV by Samsung, John Lewis & Partners. Berber-style rug, La Redoute. Sideboard, coffee table and sofa, all uk-dk.co.uk



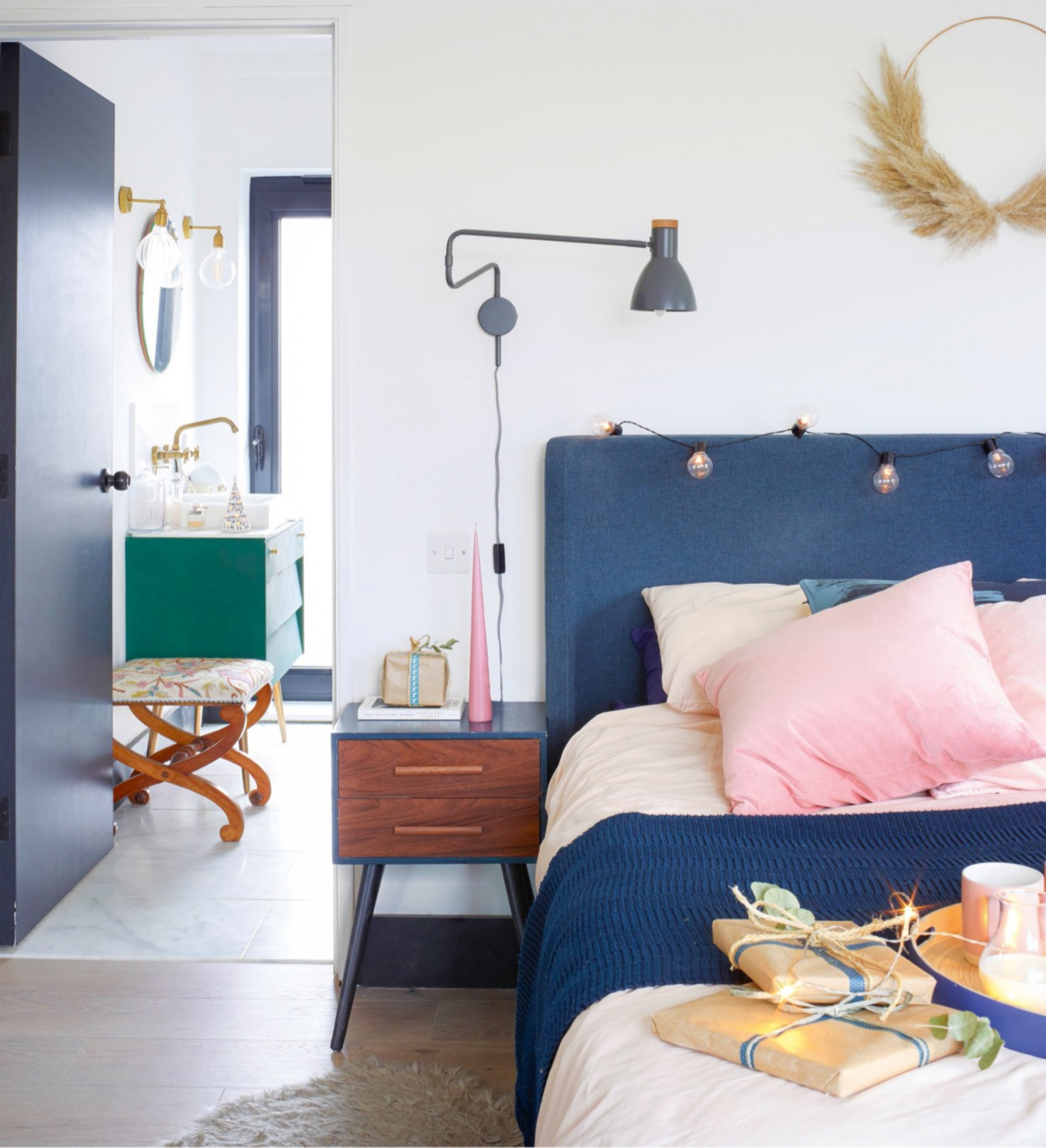
SNUG

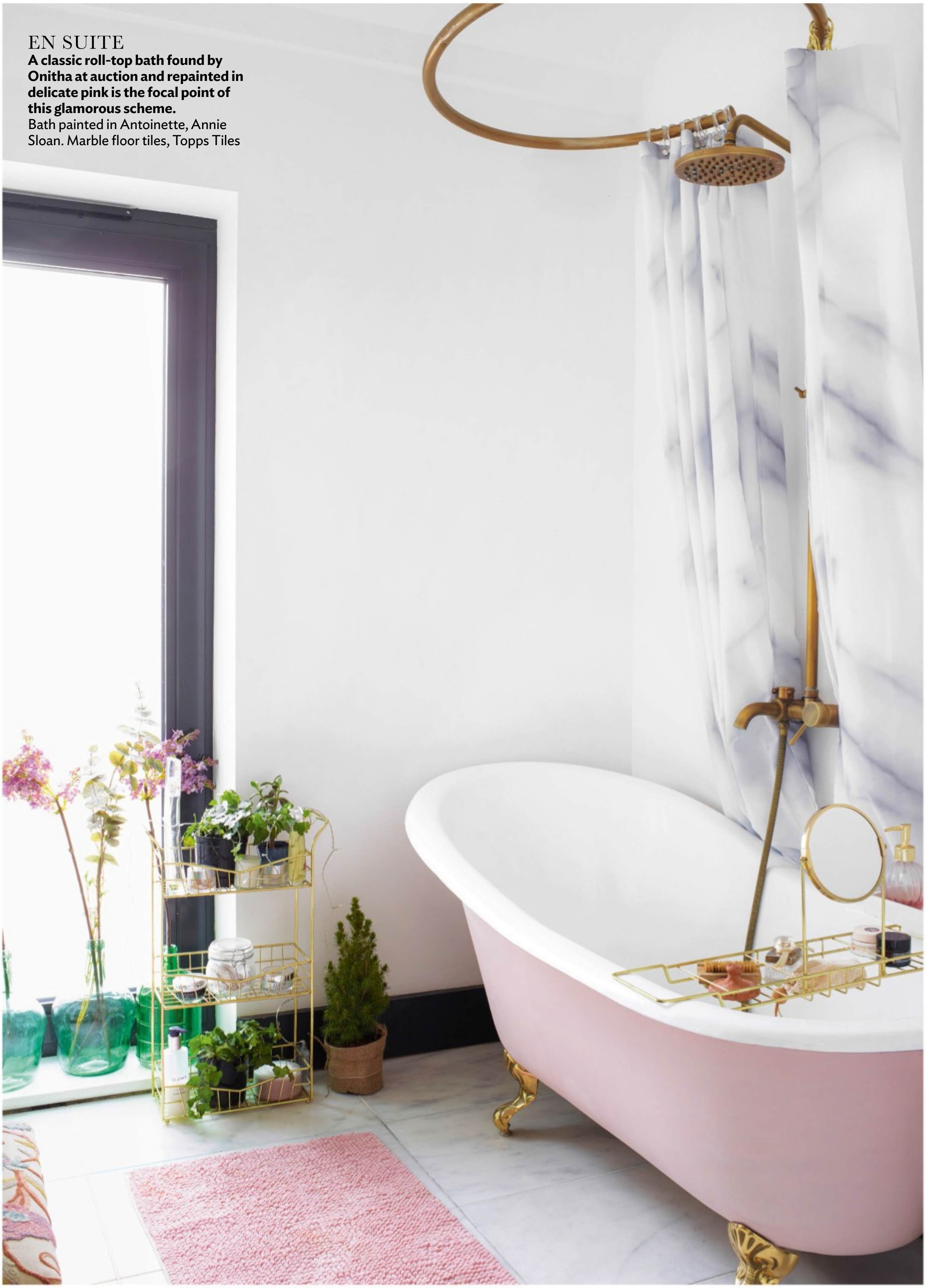
With walls painted a rich shade of blue-green, this room has a more intimate, cosy feel.
Dresser in Graphite, Annie Sloan. Chair reupholstered in wool, London Cloth Company. Cushions, Onitha Jarrold and The Making Bee. Tree baubles, Talking Tables and Folded Side Project. Tom Raffield Skipper pendant light, John Lewis & Partners. Wood burner, Stovefitter's Warehouse

‘We make many of our Christmas decorations – paper chains, salt-dough designs and wreaths made using old lampshade rings as frames’

MAIN BEDROOM

Soft textures make this feel luxurious, restful and serene. Roscoe super king-size bed in Aegean Blue, Made. Wright bedside table, West Elm. Pink bed linen, Primark. Jofrid throw, Ikea. Sheepskin rug, John Lewis & Partners. Wreath, Buds The Flower Shop





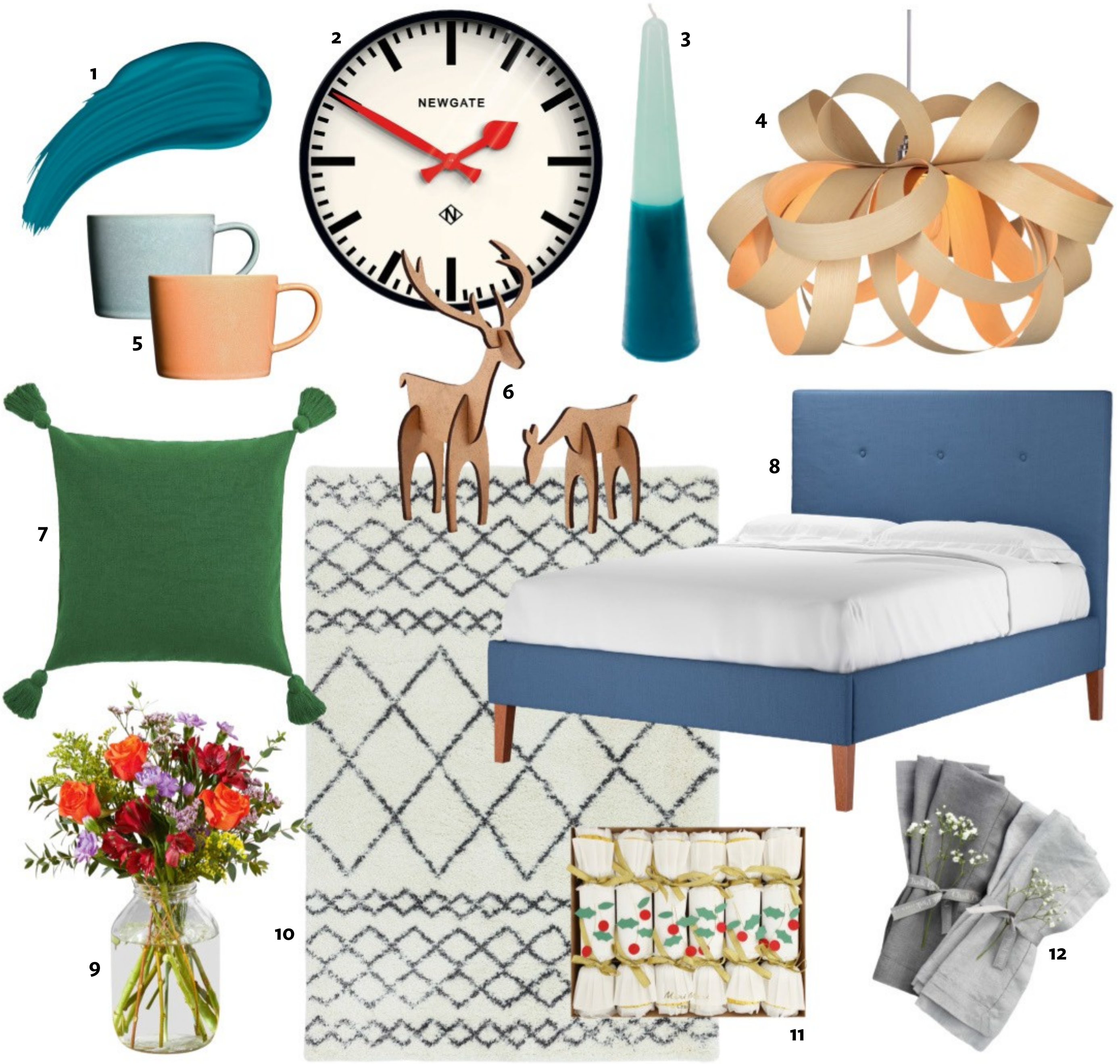
EN SUITE

A classic roll-top bath found by Onitha at auction and repainted in delicate pink is the focal point of this glamorous scheme.
Bath painted in Antoinette, Annie Sloan. Marble floor tiles, Topps Tiles

GET THE LOOK

STYLE *inspiration*

Bold blues, warm woods and characterful pieces give Onitha's home its bright and jolly feel



1 Loving Teal matt emulsion paint, £28 for 1ltr, YesColours **2** Putney wall clock in Black, £125, Newgate **3** Tall two-colour cone candle in Dark Blue and Mint Green, £6.95, Rex London **4** Large Skipper pendant in Ash, £595, Tom Raffield **5** Stoneware mugs in Orange and Teal, £27 for a set of four, ProCook **6** 3D reindeer shapes, £3.49 for a set of two, The Little Crafty Bugs Company **7** Tasselled cushion cover in Green, £14.99, H&M Home **8** Avery double bed in Oxford Blue brushed linen cotton, £1,210, Sofa.com **9** The Davi letterbox flowers (excluding vas), £27, Bloom & Wild **10** Mika rug, £419.99, Oak Furnitureland **11** Holly Berry and Gold crackers, £30 for a set of six, Meri Meri **12** Linen napkins in Secret Grey and Sea Mist Grey, £9 each, Chalk Pink Linen Company

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HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
A double-fronted Victorian house

ROOMS
Sitting room, family room, kitchen-dining area, cloakroom, three bedrooms, two bathrooms

LOCATION
West London

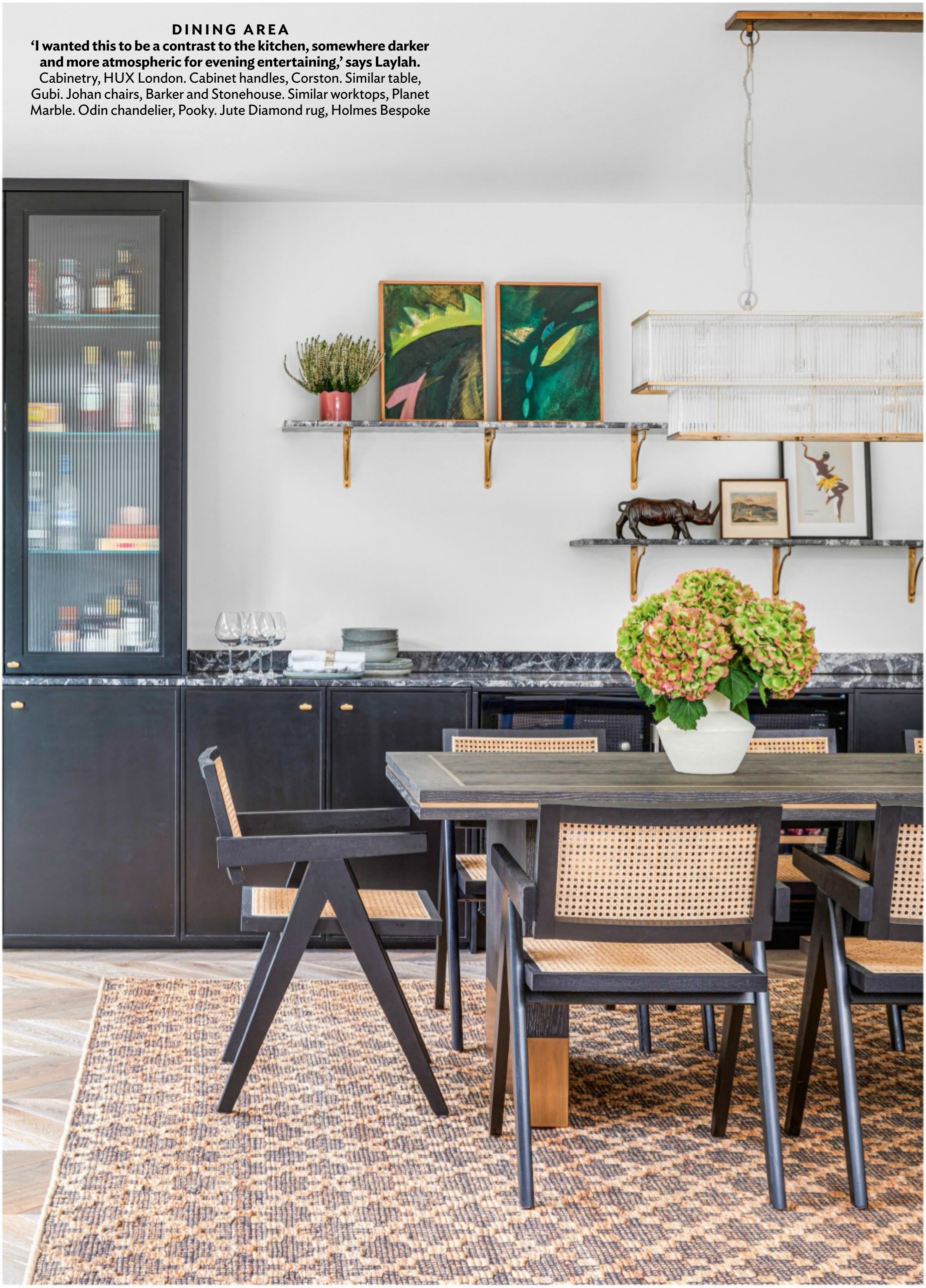
no. 2

GOOD TIDINGS

Finding a home that hadn't been touched in 50 years was a true gift for Laylah Holmes and she's turned it into an amazing family abode

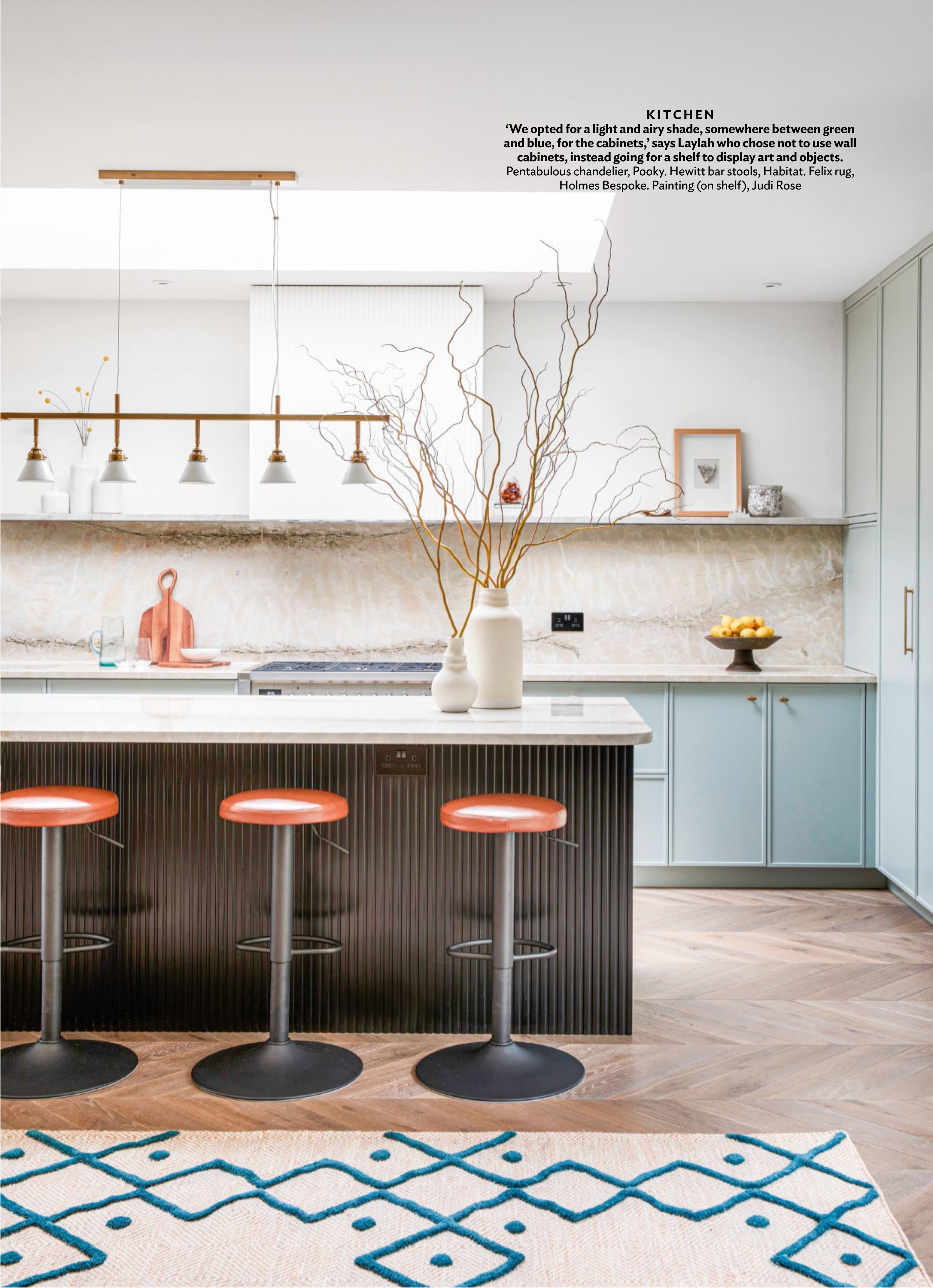
WORDS KATE JACOBS | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DARREN CHUNG

SITTING ROOM
'I was inspired by the tones in the original fire surround tiles to create a warming colour scheme of red, orange and gold in this glamorous, sophisticated living space,' says Laylah.
Ceiling in Dead Salmon, Farrow & Ball. Dandy sofa, Massproductions. Lovett chairs, Soho Home. Oro rug, Abstract Arc tapestry and Barcelona cushions, Holmes Bespoke. So'Home mirrors, La Redoute. Lamp, The Chiswick Lighting Company. Similar 1930s table, Vinterior



DINING AREA

‘I wanted this to be a contrast to the kitchen, somewhere darker and more atmospheric for evening entertaining,’ says Laylah. Cabinetry, HUX London. Cabinet handles, Corston. Similar table, Gubi. Johan chairs, Barker and Stonehouse. Similar worktops, Planet Marble. Odin chandelier, Pooky. Jute Diamond rug, Holmes Bespoke



KITCHEN

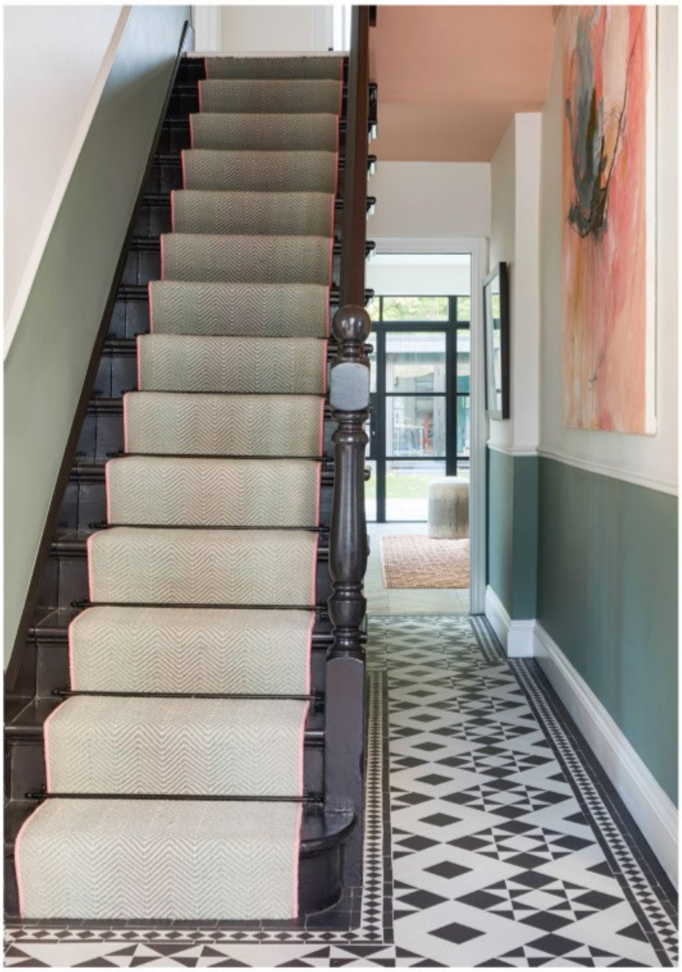
'We opted for a light and airy shade, somewhere between green and blue, for the cabinets,' says Laylah who chose not to use wall cabinets, instead going for a shelf to display art and objects. Pentabulous chandelier, Pooky. Hewitt bar stools, Habitat. Felix rug, Holmes Bespoke. Painting (on shelf), Judi Rose

In this dream of a house, all is calm and cosy. There's an emphasis on soft, hazy colours and tactile textures, including curvy bouclé sofas and deep-pile bamboo silk rugs. It's easy to forget that this is a family home where Laylah Holmes lives with her husband Matt and her two daughters, Savannah, seven, and India, four. For Laylah, the key to balancing a beautiful home with a busy family lifestyle is to create what she calls 'liveable luxury'.

'The house hadn't been touched in 50 years,' says Laylah. 'As well as featuring lots of bespoke, natural and sustainable materials, I wanted the place to feel luxurious, but to also be comfortable and practical for everyday life. That means being able to tidy up quickly and easily.' Hence, storage is at the heart of the design, with plenty of bespoke cabinetry close at hand wherever it's needed – such as a huge built-in toy cupboard in the family room. Just off the kitchen, a good-sized utility-laundry houses, 'All the messy stuff, as well as big coat cupboards'. Stepping away from the open-plan idea, each space in this house can be closed off with sleek pocket doors, 'So that we can have friends for dinner and drinks and not disturb the children; or someone can be reading in the sitting room, while someone else is watching a movie in the family room. Then, when we want to, we can open it up for a lovely sense of flow with no doors flapping around,' Laylah explains.

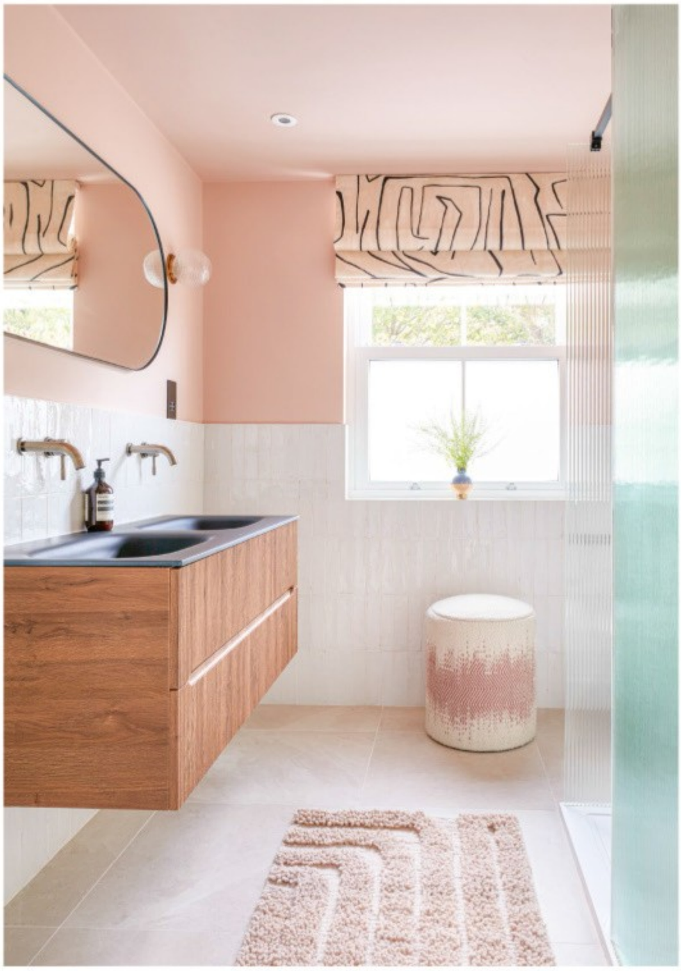
Laylah's liveable luxury concept can also be seen in her material choices. For example, she opted for a

'THE OVERSIZED, ARCHED AND UPHOLSTERED HEADBOARD IN THE MAIN BEDROOM IS LIKE A WORK OF ART'



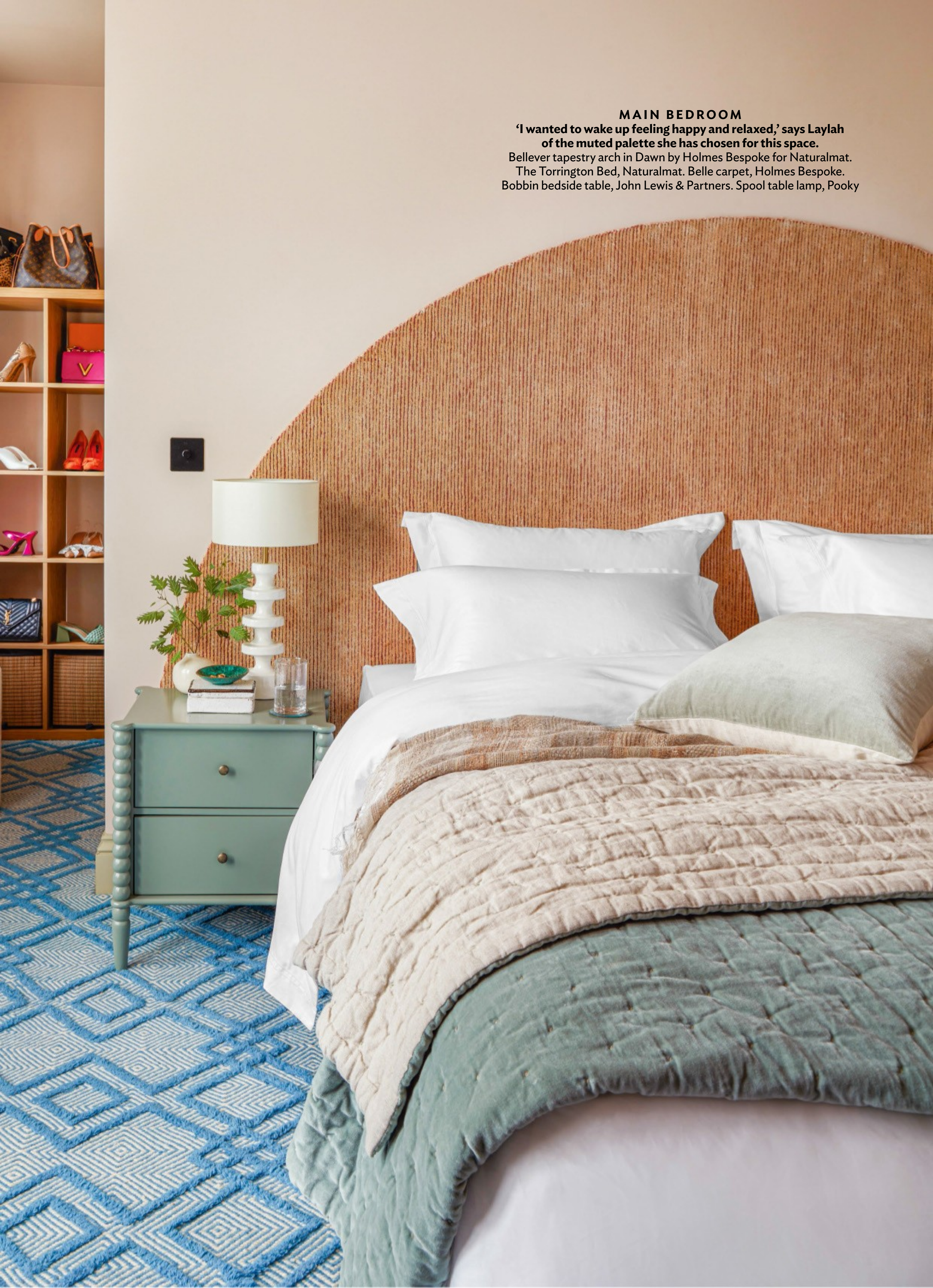
HALLWAY

Period-style floor tiles in graphic black and white create a striking first impression, echoed in the black of the stairs. 'I designed the bespoke stair runner with a pink trim to pick out the colours in the painting hanging nearby,' says Laylah.
Osterley floor tiles, Topps Tiles. Olivia stair runner, Holmes Bespoke. Painting, Marie Soliman Berglund



EN SUITE

'With the powder pink and soft white, I used colours from the bedroom to create a sense of harmony and flow here,' says Laylah.
Smyle vanity and double basin, Idea Group. Taps, Lusso. Enis Ivory Slate floor tiles, Topps Tiles. Loom White tiles, Stone & Ceramic Warehouse. Willow rug and Ikat footstool, Holmes Bespoke. Fine edge oval mirror, Heal's. Blinds made by The Boys Who Sew; in Graffito, Kelly Wearstler



MAIN BEDROOM

'I wanted to wake up feeling happy and relaxed,' says Laylah of the muted palette she has chosen for this space.

Bellever tapestry arch in Dawn by Holmes Bespoke for Naturalmat. The Torrington Bed, Naturalmat. Belle carpet, Holmes Bespoke. Bobbin bedside table, John Lewis & Partners. Spool table lamp, Pooky chevron-patterned floor in a mid-tone engineered oak. 'It's practical, but doesn't make the space feel dark,' she says. While the children's play area in front of the bay window is defined by a circular bamboo silk rug – her own design. 'It has a multitude of colours and shades, so it's very forgiving of any marks.' Unsurprisingly, Laylah is a keen champion of what rugs can do for a space. 'They will anchor a key piece of furniture, zone an open-plan area and make a room feel bigger. They're like a work of art on the floor, but they also bring comfort, warmth and texture to a room,' she enthuses.

Equally welcoming are her choice of warm colours, with lots of soft whites and cosseting pinks, used alongside tranquil blues and greens. In the sitting room, inspired by the tiles in the fire surround, there's a rich palette of russet, gold and terracotta – colours that come together in Laylah's bespoke tapestry, framed by the chimney breast panelling. Tactile upholstery and a sumptuous rug further go to create a warm retreat on winter days and somewhere glamorous to retire to when the couple have friends and family over.

'We love to entertain a lot, especially around the festive season and New Year, with a big Christmas tree framed by the doors to the garden and my husband and I both cooking at the kitchen island,' explains Laylah. 'It feels like this house slips really easily between family life and a more social space.' ㉕

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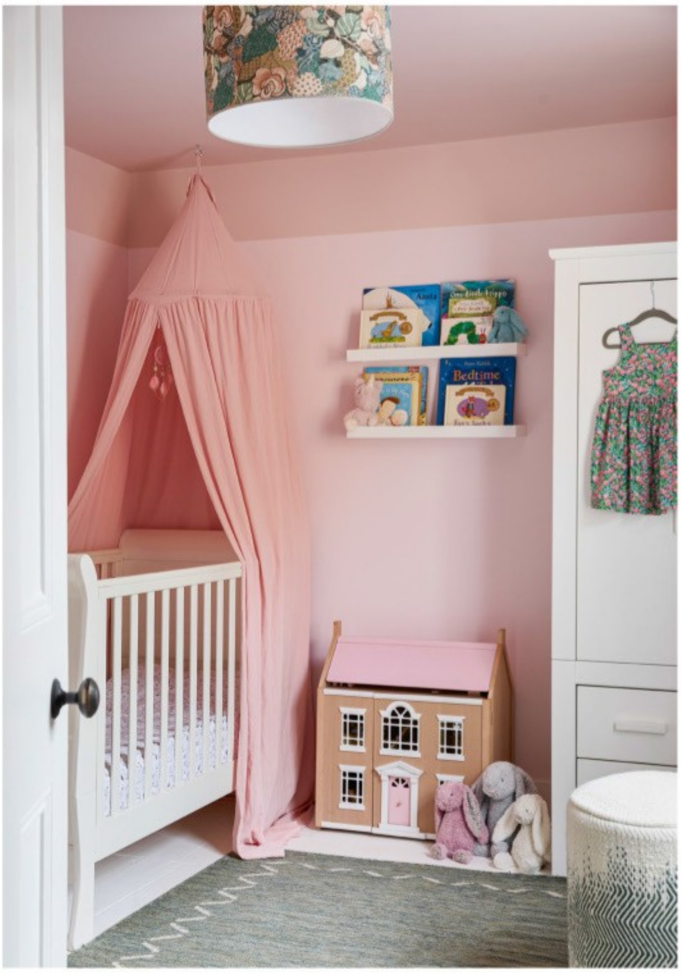
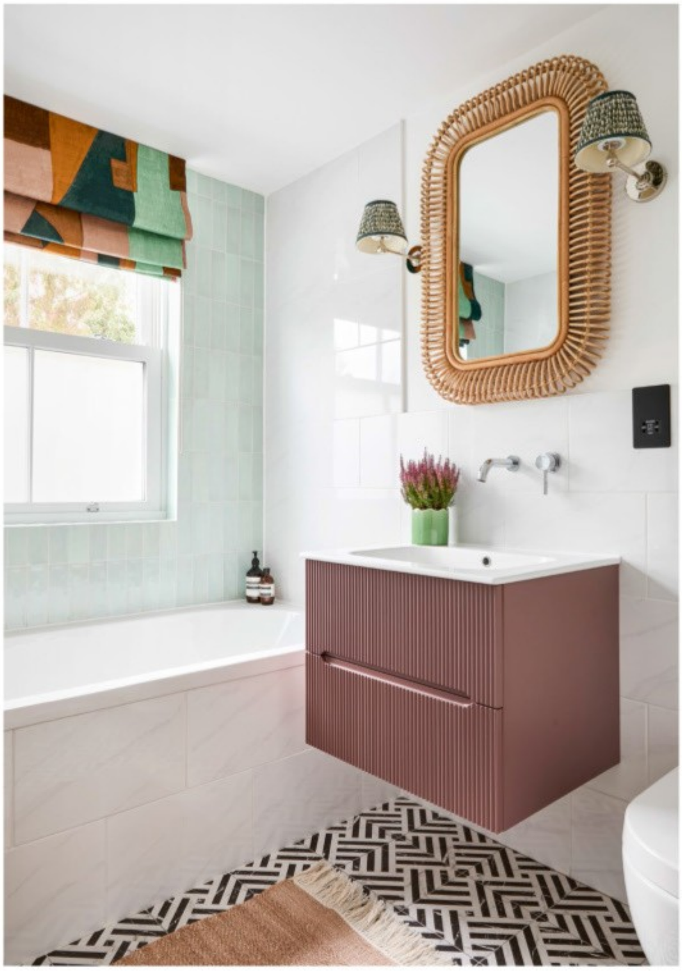
'A PATTERNED FLOOR CAN HAVE THE AFFECT OF MAKING A CEILING FEEL HIGH AS IT DRAWS THE EYE DOWNWARDS'



NURSERY

'I love using multiple paint colours in one space,' says Laylah. 'For a cosy look, I used a deeper pink on the ceiling and top of the walls, with a lighter shade below. It works beautifully with the green rug.'
Mia cot, Mamas & Papas. Bed canopy, Cam Cam Copenhagen. Walls in Julie's Dream; ceiling in Blush, both Little Greene. Stitch rug and Ikat footstool, both Holmes Bespoke



BATHROOM

'My two girls love bath time,' says Laylah. 'So a big bath was a must. I added some colour with the vanity unit, tiles and blind.'
Smyle vanity unit in Noce Moscata, Idea Group. Luxe mixer tap, Lusso. Village mint tiles, Tile Mountain. Roma Blanco large format wall tiles and Gatzby floor tiles, both Topps Tiles. Tarsile mirror, La Redoute. Blind made by The Boys Who Sew; in District fabric, Kelly Wearstler

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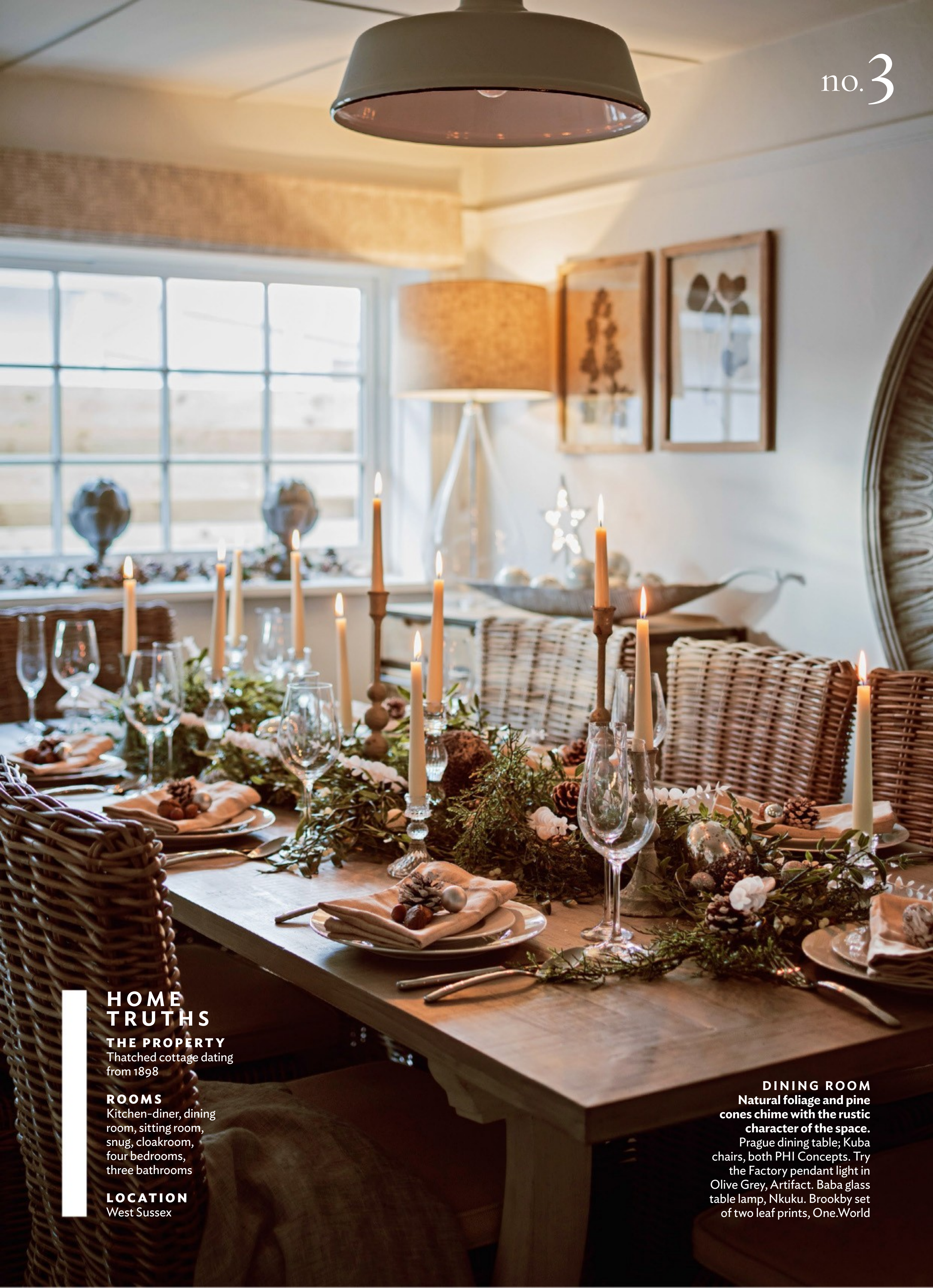
Winter's tale

Candles, twinkling lights and pretty decorations bring an extra sprinkling of magic to Claire Georghiades and Chris Mitsis' enchanting thatched cottage

WORDS RACHEL LEEDHAM | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MATTHEW HERITAGE



no.3

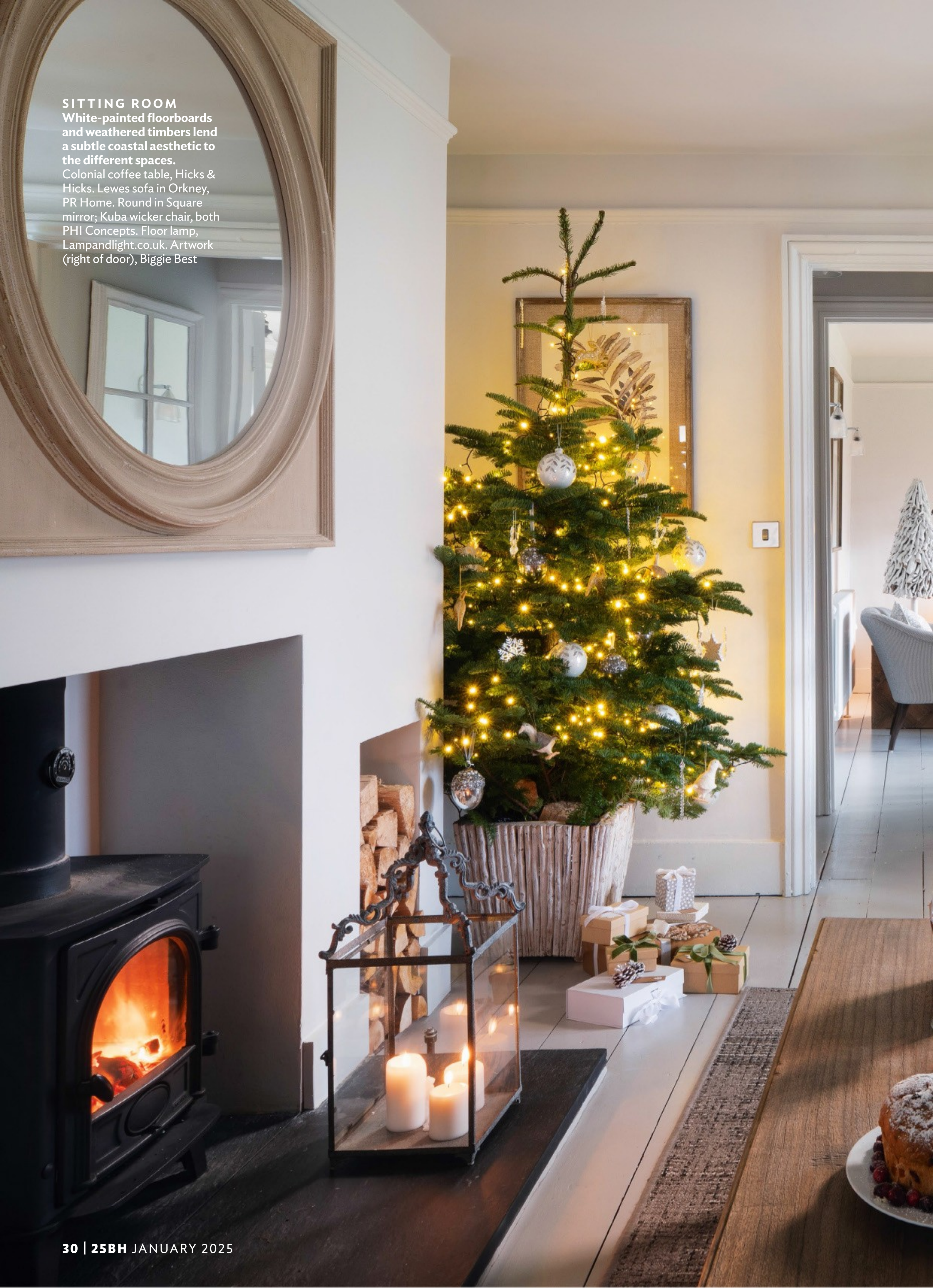
HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Thatched cottage dating from 1898

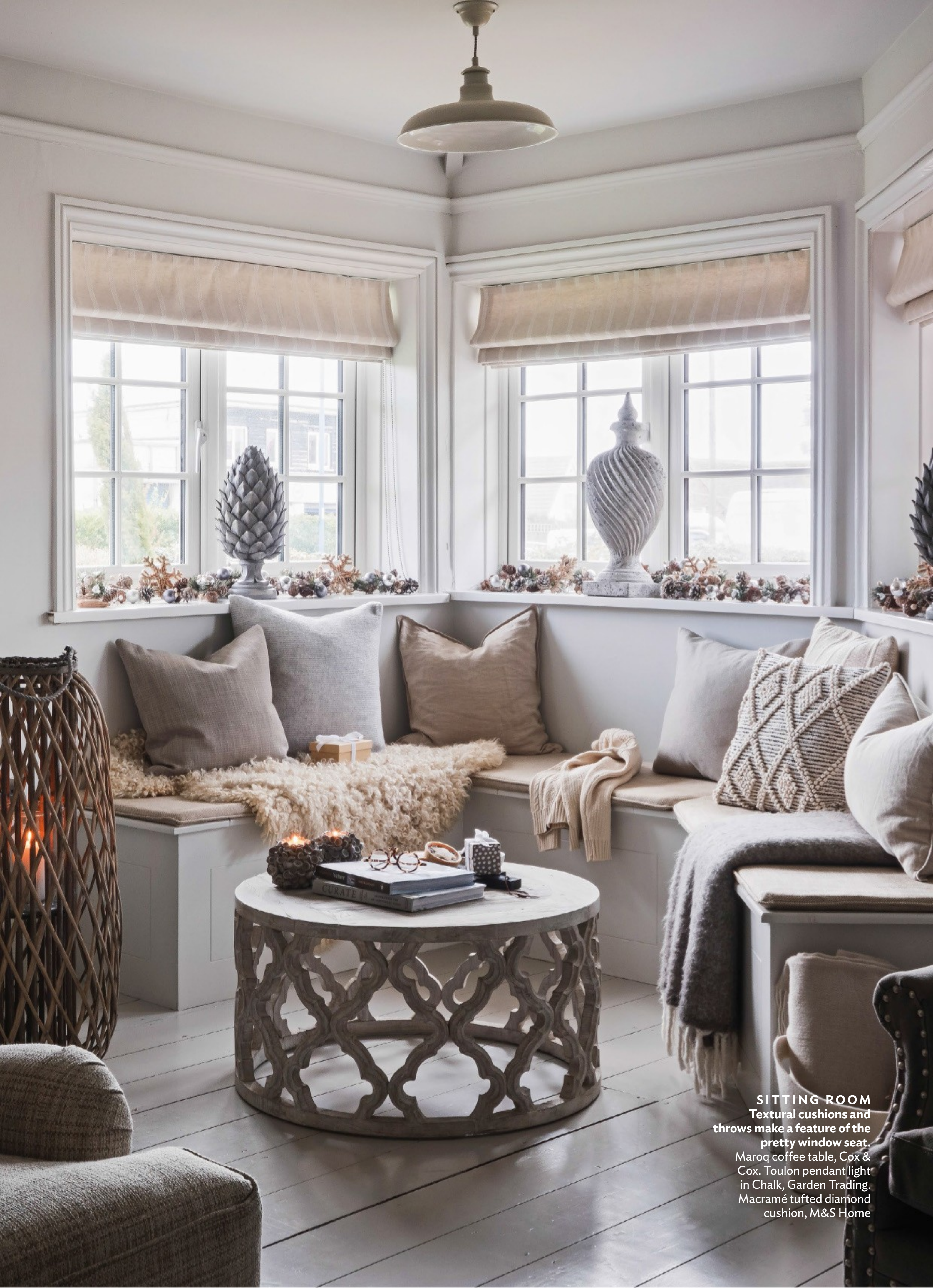
ROOMS
Kitchen-diner, dining room, sitting room, snug, cloakroom, four bedrooms, three bathrooms

LOCATION
West Sussex

DINING ROOM
Natural foliage and pine cones chime with the rustic character of the space. Prague dining table; Kuba chairs, both PHI Concepts. Try the Factory pendant light in Olive Grey, Artifact. Baba glass table lamp, Nkuku. Brookby set of two leaf prints, One.World



SITTING ROOM
White-painted floorboards and weathered timbers lend a subtle coastal aesthetic to the different spaces. Colonial coffee table, Hicks & Hicks. Lewes sofa in Orkney, PR Home. Round in Square mirror; Kuba wicker chair, both PHI Concepts. Floor lamp, Lampandlight.co.uk. Artwork (right of door), Biggie Best



SITTING ROOM
Textural cushions and throws make a feature of the pretty window seat. Maroq coffee table, Cox & Cox. Toulon pendant light in Chalk, Garden Trading. Macramé tufted diamond cushion, M&S Home

SNUG
A woven platter and a soothing seascape add interest to the walls.
Kibo coffee table, Gathered Living. Brookby Wooden Ocean wall art, One.World. Find a similar woven wall basket at The Basket Room

The weather may be unpredictable at this time of year, but for Claire Georghiades, it is probably her favourite season. 'There is something very special about heading out for walks by the sea and then warming up by the wood burner,' says Claire, who moved to a seaside town in West Sussex with her husband, Chris, in 2019. 'We are both Londoners, but we decided we wanted to be by the coast; we fell in love with this area because it has so much to offer – from wonderful vineyards to the beautiful South Downs,' she says.

Three years after moving, the couple decided that they wanted to purchase a holiday let. 'I had come into a small inheritance and we wanted to find a property that we could inject with a lot of love so that people could come and stay and explore the area,' she explains, adding, 'We were keen to find a thatched house because we live in a thatched cottage ourselves and we love that romantic idea of an old-fashioned English coastal home.'

The Wishing Well – the property has its own well in the garden – is situated on a lane just back from the sea. 'It is one of four thatched cottages that were built in 1898 for Londoners coming down to enjoy the coastal air,' Claire explains. The previous owner had extended the kitchen and adapted the ground floor so that it was easily accessible for a wheelchair user. 'This includes the ground floor bedroom and en suite, which makes it perfect for multigenerational family gatherings,' says Claire.

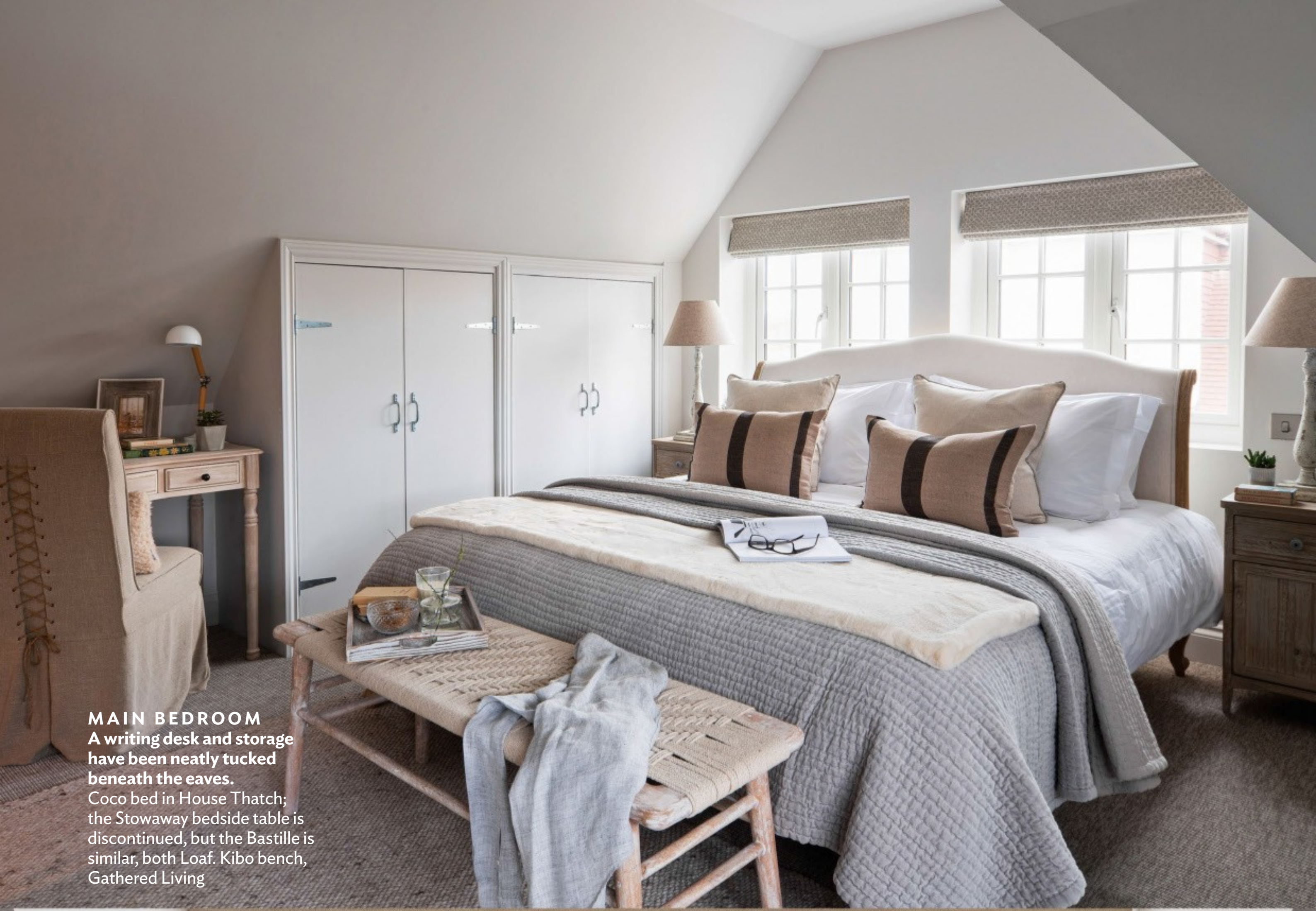
SNUG
Vintage pieces bring a lived-in feel to the room. Vintage cupboard, Goose Home and Garden. Vintage plum tray (on wall), Daylesford Organic. Sculptural piece, One.World

While the couple were keen to replace the uPVC windows for more traditional versions, they were happy to keep the cottage's somewhat quirky layout. 'Each bedroom is accessed from a little corridor, but it helps give a feeling of space; we also loved the fact that the cottage has a separate snug as well as a dining room, which lends a sense of occasion to family meals,' notes Claire, who tasked Paul Hervey of PHI Concepts with the interiors: 'We loved his approach to coastal decorating – it is calming yet warm at the same time,' she says.

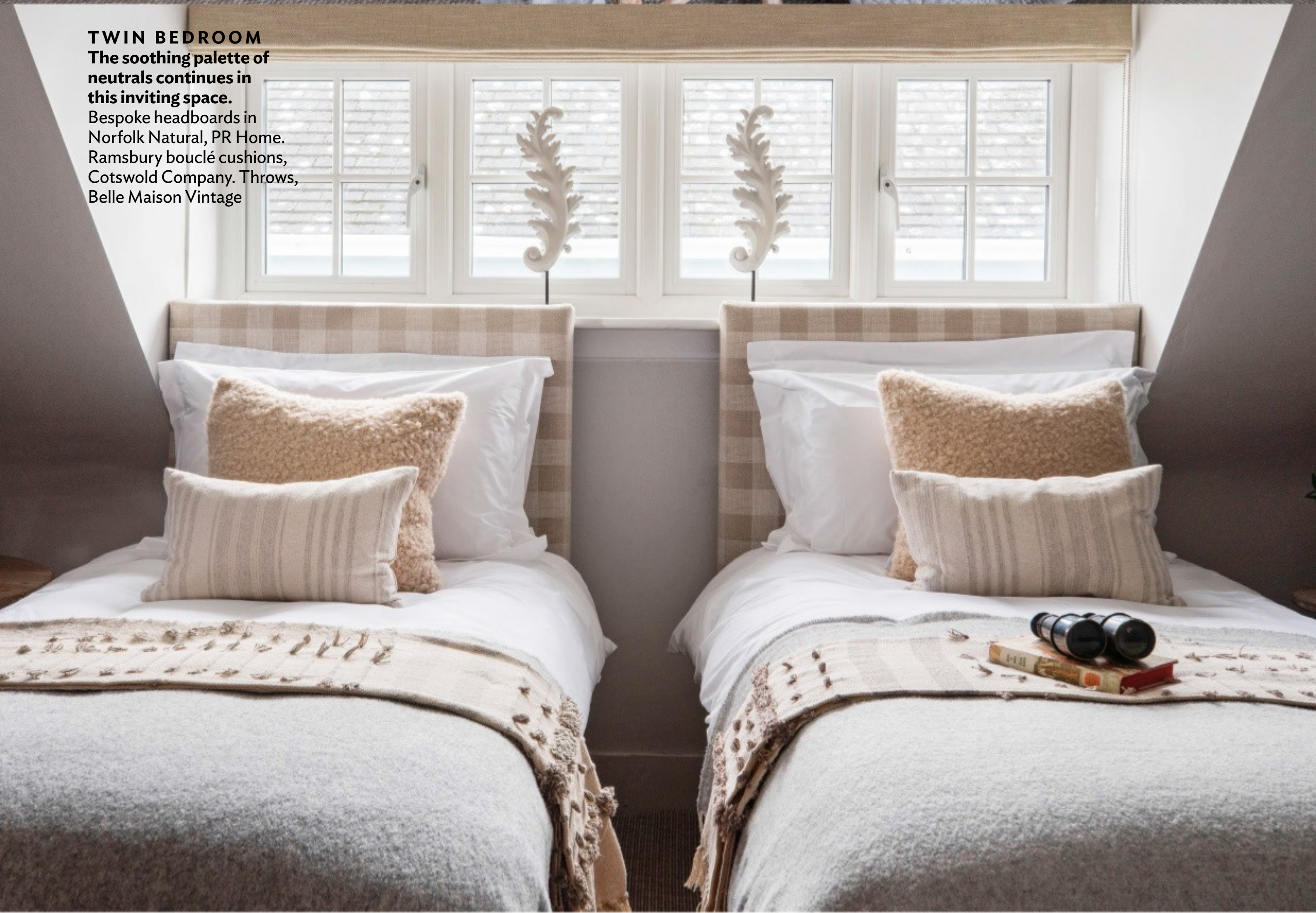
Paul has used an abundance of texture – rustic timbers, rattan, linens, velvets and wools – in a soothing, knocked-back palette that spans chalky whites to earthy neutrals. 'Each room has its own feel and yet there's a sense of cohesion throughout,' he says. He was also asked to decorate the cottage for its inaugural Christmas last year. 'We wanted to go with a natural theme, mixing gathered foliage with twinkling fairy lights and decorations that enhance the character,' he says.

This festive scheme is one that the couple intend to revive each year to ensure that visits to the cottage are truly magical. 'We want our guests to feel very special,' smiles Claire, adding, 'We hope they will come away with lasting memories, whether that's of board games by the fire or a walk down to the beach with a glass of fizz. It's moments like these that stay with you forever.'

The Wishing Well is available to rent via Boutique Retreats, boutique-retreats.co.uk; phiconcepts.co.uk



MAIN BEDROOM
A writing desk and storage have been neatly tucked beneath the eaves.
Coco bed in House Thatch; the Stowaway bedside table is discontinued, but the Bastille is similar, both Loaf. Kibo bench, Gathered Living



TWIN BEDROOM
The soothing palette of neutrals continues in this inviting space.
Bespoke headboards in Norfolk Natural, PR Home. Ramsbury bouclé cushions, Cotswold Company. Throws, Belle Maison Vintage

Merry & bright

Renowned for his passion for colour and pattern, Sean Symington was just the designer to conjure up energetic and playful schemes that celebrate clashing prints and vibrant hues

WORDS VIVIENNE AYERS | **PHOTOGRAPHY** CHRIS WAKEFIELD

ST. TROPEZ SOLEIL
Good Times
MAXIMALISM
SACRED SPACES

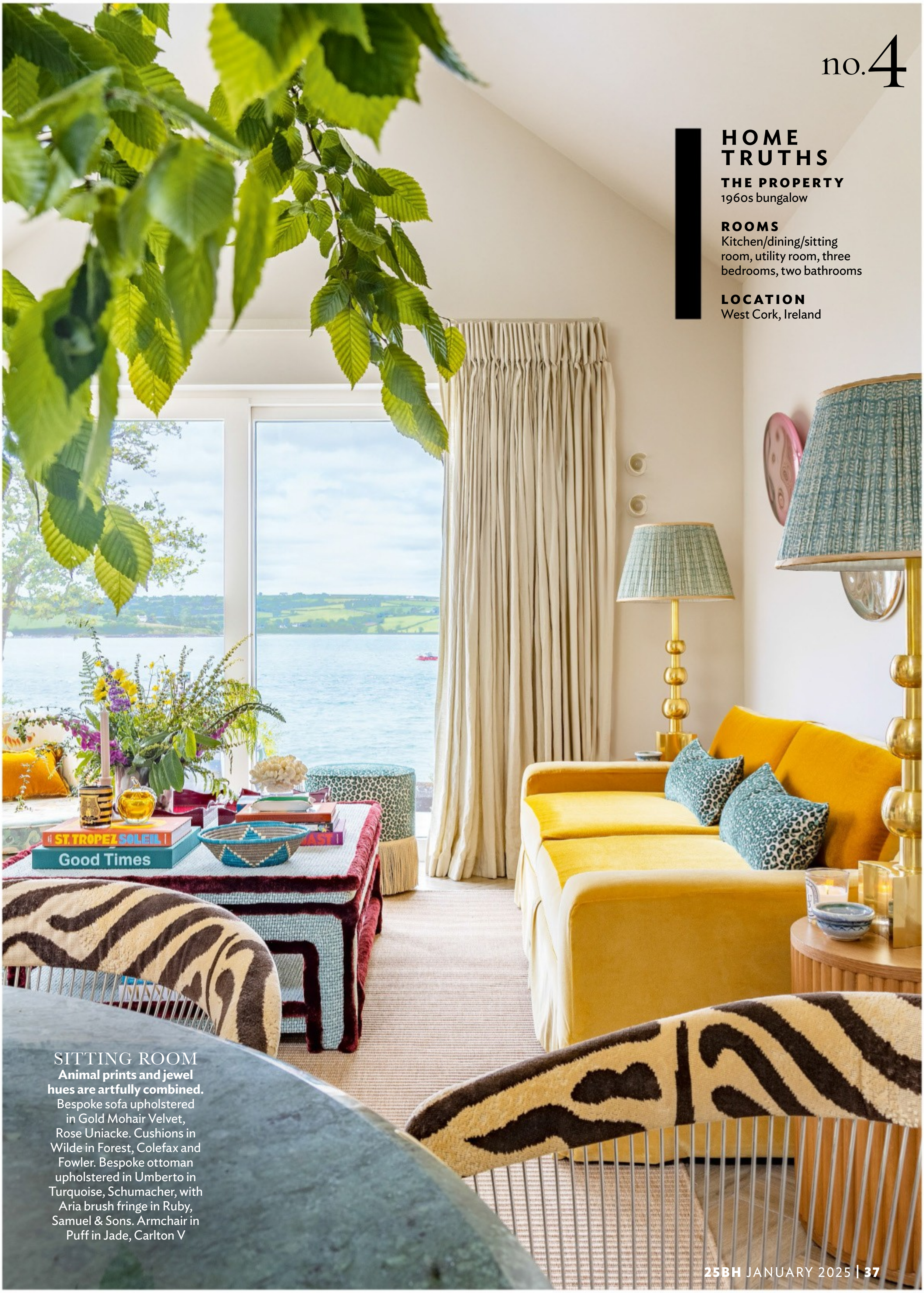
no.4

HOME TRUTHS

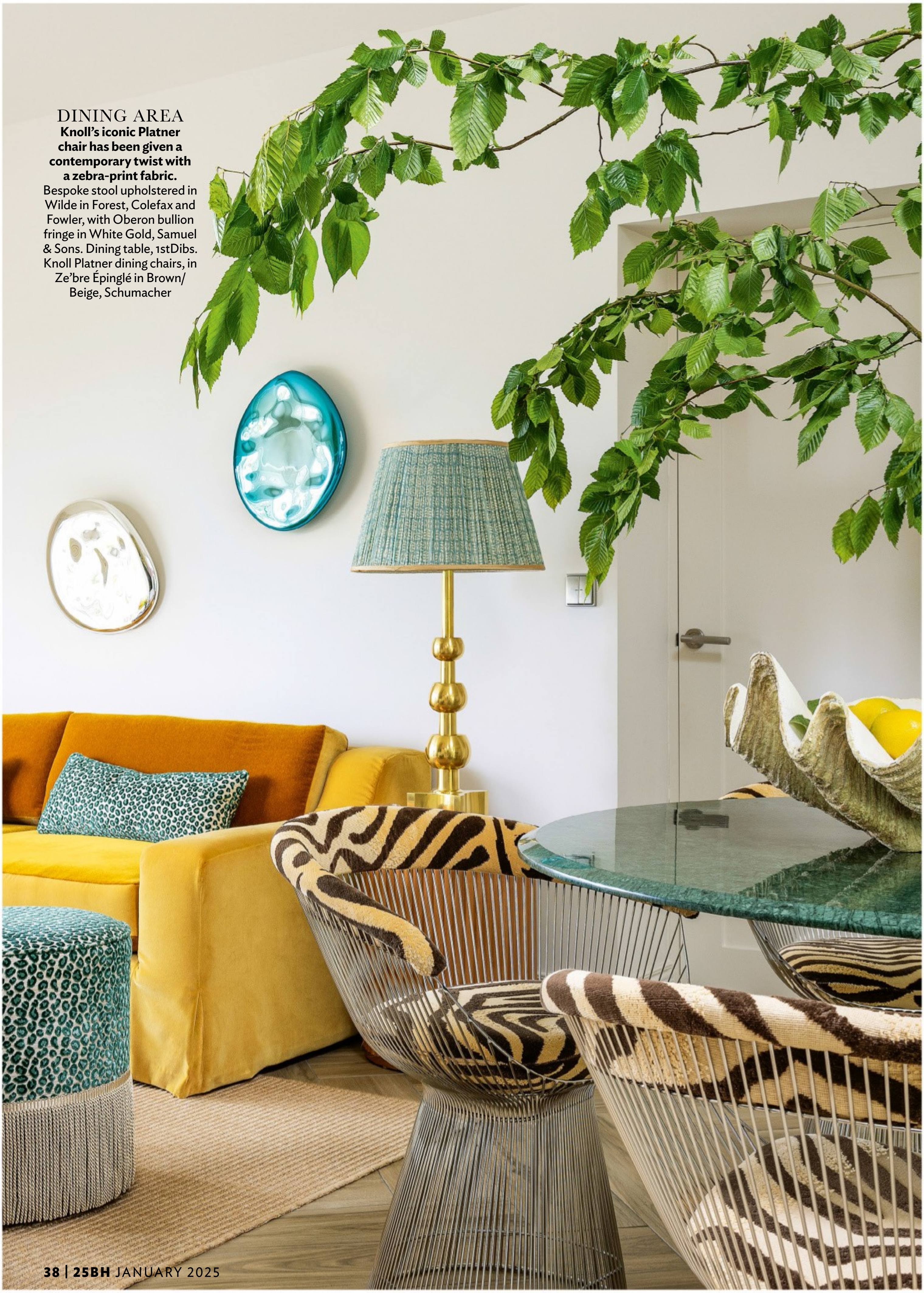
THE PROPERTY
1960s bungalow

ROOMS
Kitchen/dining/sitting room, utility room, three bedrooms, two bathrooms

LOCATION
West Cork, Ireland



SITTING ROOM
Animal prints and jewel hues are artfully combined. Bespoke sofa upholstered in Gold Mohair Velvet, Rose Uniacke. Cushions in Wilde in Forest, Colefax and Fowler. Bespoke ottoman upholstered in Umberto in Turquoise, Schumacher, with Aria brush fringe in Ruby, Samuel & Sons. Armchair in Puff in Jade, Carlton V



DINING AREA
Knoll's iconic Platner chair has been given a contemporary twist with a zebra-print fabric. Bespoke stool upholstered in Wilde in Forest, Colefax and Fowler, with Oberon bullion fringe in White Gold, Samuel & Sons. Dining table, 1stDibs. Knoll Platner dining chairs, in Ze'bre Épinglé in Brown/ Beige, Schumacher

WHAT WAS THE BRIEF? To design a vibrant and contemporary interior. The client's primary residence is in Holland, although she is originally from Ireland, and she splits her time between Spain, Holland, and Ireland. She has a passion for bold and eclectic interiors, inspired by places such as Annabel's in Mayfair and Ham Yard in Soho. Since this isn't her main residence, she wanted to be more daring with the design, incorporating clashing prints and bright colours to create an energising and fun atmosphere for holidays in Ireland with her young son. Unlike their large and grand home in Holland, she wanted this house to be a petite, lock-and-leave retreat.

DESCRIBE THE HOMEOWNER'S STYLE. The client has a very contemporary style, characterised by a love of luxurious materials and vibrant pops of colour. Her remarkable collection of contemporary art has been a significant source of inspiration and a key influence on the interior design. She has a preference for clean architecture, lofty ceilings and modern lighting, which she complements with luxurious soft furnishings and unexpected prints and patterns. This property is the boldest of her homes, designed to feel cosy during the harsh Irish winters. Her main priority was to create a space that feels individual and unique. She wanted to keep the main open-concept area clean and airy, while going bolder in the bedrooms since they spend the least amount of time there. The focus is on enjoying the outdoors and admiring the views,

> 'Foregoing wall units in an open-plan kitchen and living space makes the cooking area feel more a part of the whole scheme'

KITCHEN
Sean went for neutral walls that don't detract from the views outside. Walls in Skimming Stone, Farrow & Ball. Cabinetry in Pale Powder, Farrow & Ball. Curtains in Laundered-Linen in Natural, Warwick. Rug, Penny Morrison

which makes the indoor-outdoor connection a vital aspect of the design.

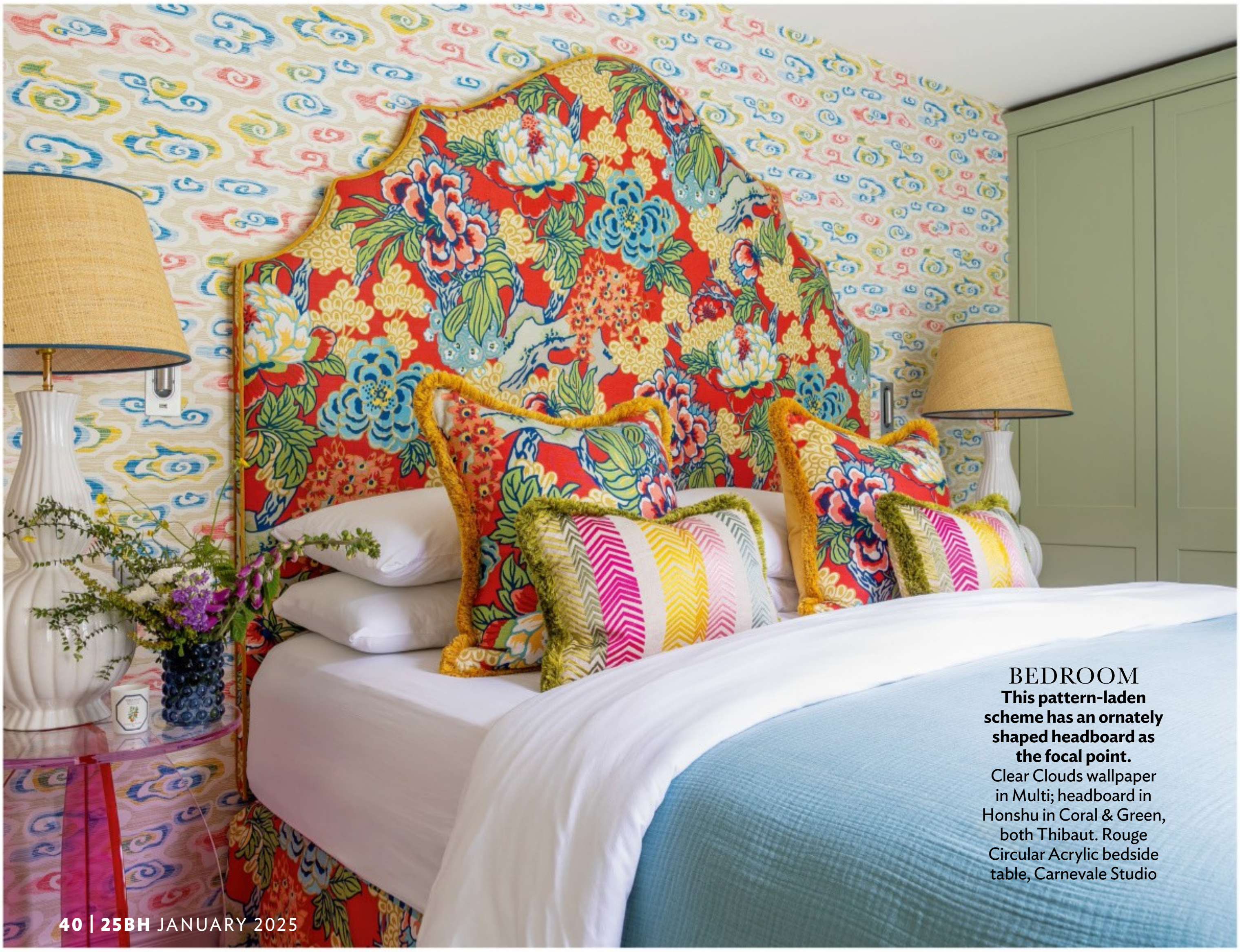
WHAT WAS YOUR INSPIRATION FOR THE SCHEME? This interior has a strong Dutch influence, reflecting where my client lives. She has a passion for modern furniture paired with unexpected fabrics. A significant source of inspiration came from her impressive art collection, as well as clubs and hotels she admires.

WHICH ROOM WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT TO THE HOMEOWNER? The main living space stands out as the heart of the home. The open-plan kitchen flows seamlessly into the dining and sitting areas, creating a central hub with the bedrooms and bathrooms branching off from this space. With its vaulted ceilings, this large area was kept neutral to evoke a gallery-like atmosphere and to highlight the stunning view through the patio doors. The home's open-concept design allows natural light to flow from the front to the back.

HOW DID YOU CHOOSE THE COLOUR PALETTE? It's inspired by the standout hero prints we selected for the design. A stunning dragon print from the American fabric house Carleton V served as the primary inspiration for the main living areas, bringing together shades of ochre, green, pale blue and deep red. Similarly, in the bedrooms, the fabrics chosen for the headboards set the tone, guiding the entire colour scheme for each room. ㉕

seansymington.com

> 'Picking a colour from a patterned wallpaper or fabric and using it on the woodwork is fun and also ties different motifs together'



BEDROOM
This pattern-laden scheme has an ornately shaped headboard as the focal point. Clear Clouds wallpaper in Multi; headboard in Honshu in Coral & Green, both Thibaut. Rouge Circular Acrylic bedside table, Carnevale Studio

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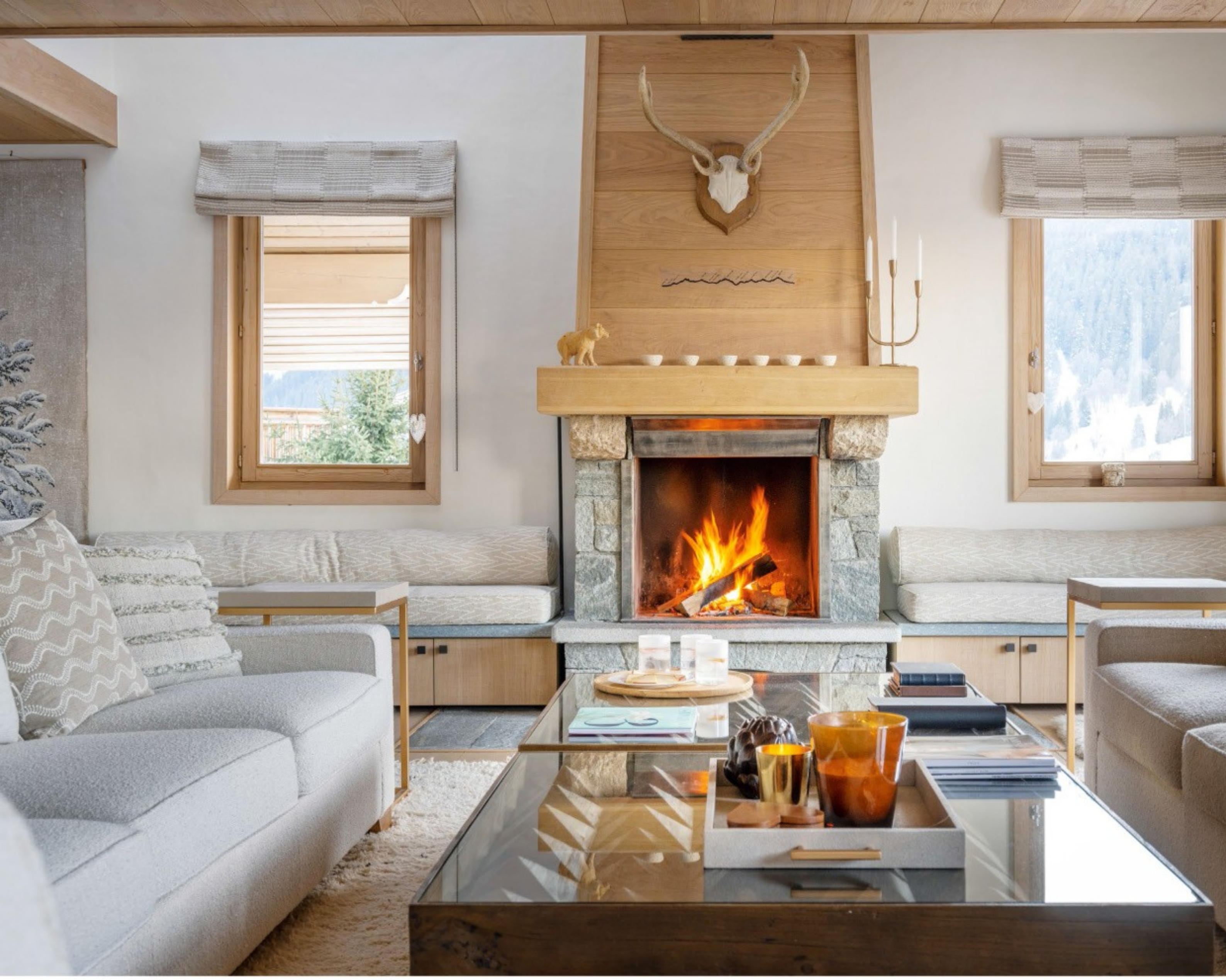


CHALET CHIC

Board games by the fire and hot cocoa on the terrace are just some of the traditions Louise Palmer and her family enjoy over the holidays

WORDS MARY WEAVER | **STYLING** SARAH FOX | **PHOTOGRAPHY** WINFRIED HEINZE, B.LATERAL

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY A traditional 1970s-built chalet

ROOMS Living room including sitting, dining and snug/games areas, kitchen, TV room, cinema room, six bedrooms, six bathrooms, spa

LOCATION France

SITTING AND SNUG/GAMES AREAS
The heart of the chalet is this family living space – somewhere to gather, entertain friends or sit quietly by the fire. Bespoke Manhattan sofas, Kingcome Sofas. Find similar cladding at Real Stone Cladding. Find a similar wall hanging at The Christmas Workshop

TERRACE
This relaxing area leads off the sitting room. Ziggy sheepskin chair and pouffe, Heal's

no. 5

> ‘SURROUNDED BY SNOW-COVERED MOUNTAINS, THIS CHALET IS DESIGNED TO KEEP THE COLD AT BAY AND EVERYONE INSIDE WARM AND COSY’

When you have the most amazing views of nature on your doorstep – snow-covered mountains, breathtaking pine forests and warm winter light – it would be remiss not to reflect them in your home. ‘That was exactly it,’ says interior designer Sarah Fox, ‘it was the landscape that was our inspiration for the serene palette of pale wood, natural stone and soft textures at the heart of this renovation.’

Sarah and chalet owner Louise Palmer had worked together on her London apartment (featured in *25 Beautiful Homes*, July 2021) and collaborated again to remodel this 1970s-built home in the French Alps. ‘The plan was to create a contemporary living space for Louise, her husband Andrew and their three grown-up children, that was both practical and luxurious, while preserving the chalet’s warmth and charm,’ says Sarah.

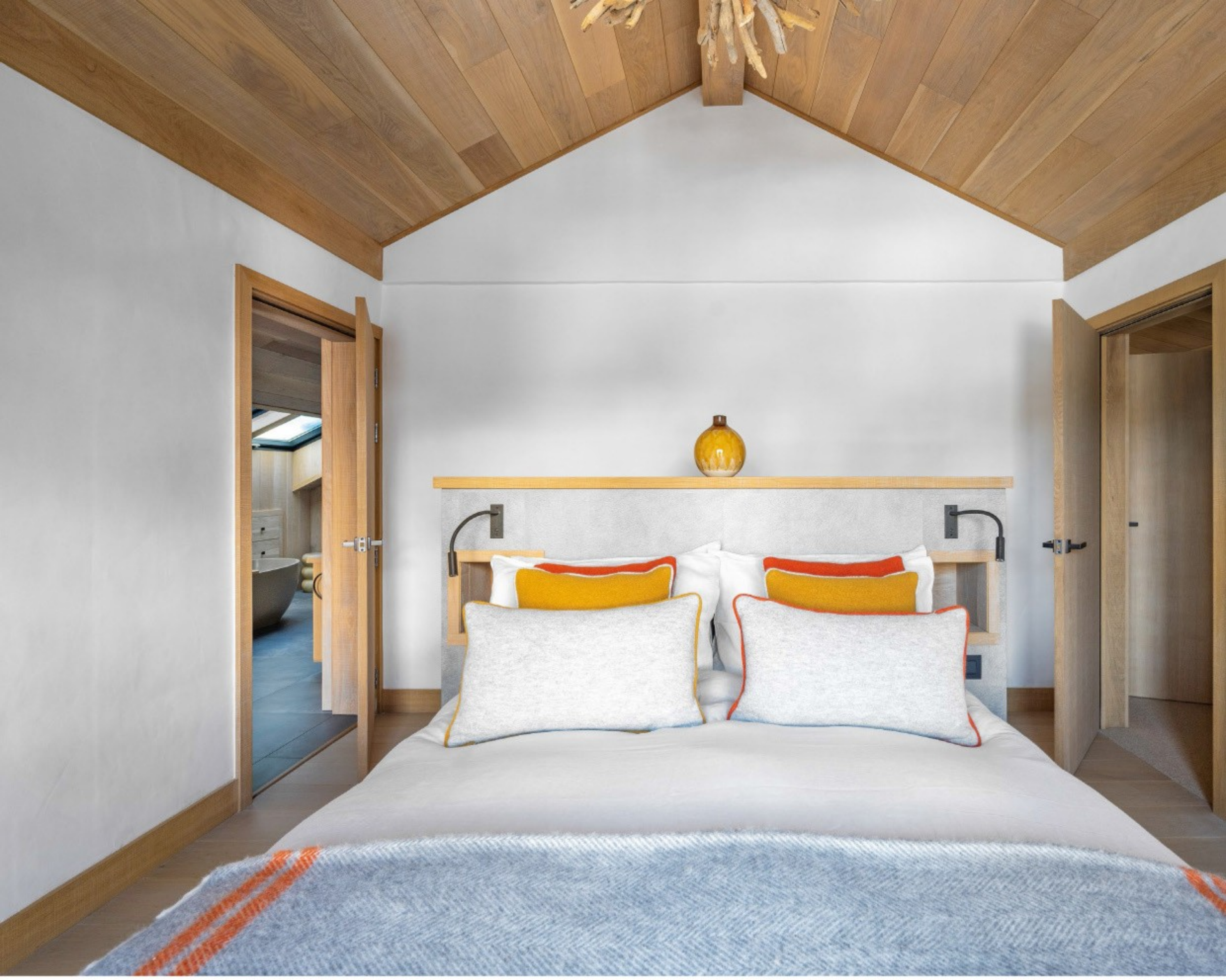
Louise and Andrew fell in love with their year-round home-from-home 20 years ago. ‘Its spectacular location, looking out over an outstanding national park and the après-ski life of the nearby ski resort – especially important for teenagers – lured us there,’ laughs Louise. ‘And the chalet itself – which has a cinema room in the basement, again ideal for the children, plus an open-plan living and dining space on the ground floor to gather and entertain – suited our lifestyle.’

Logistically the renovation was quite a challenge, working with a local building team and sourcing materials nearby to reduce carbon footprint, while Louise and Sarah were London-based and hindered by Covid

DINING ROOM
‘We opened up the far end with a picture window to maximise views of the mountains and added an oak coffered ceiling to create layers of atmospheric lighting,’ says Sarah.
Hanging light, Gant. Bespoke curtains by Fox Interior Design in Larsen Moro Linen, made by KLS Interiors. Pendle table, The Conran Shop. Chairs, Heal’s. Berber rug, City Cows

TERRACE
Relaxing in a hot tub with uninterrupted mountain views is the most peaceful way to end the day

KITCHEN
Designed by the owner before the current revamp, the space is large enough to cater for large family meals or entertaining.
For similar cabinetry, try Marc Wood Furniture. Find similar slate flooring at Stone Tile Company



restrictions. 'Sarah helped me distil my ideas to make the right choices for everything from sofas to larger picture windows to maximise the views,' says Louise. 'She took away the stress and left the fun bits to me, although we did some exciting sourcing trips together, both in the UK and France.'

The footprint of the chalet remained but the space was imbued with light through roof openings in the main bedroom – perfect for bathing with a view – and a large picture window in the dining room overlooking the mountains. The existing garage was revamped to turn it into a ski/boot room and colourful highlights, inspired by the nearby ski runs of green, blue, red and black, were introduced to the bedrooms. 'The most impactful changes came from swapping the original deep-hued alpine wood for a more contemporary light oak brossé (textured oak) and the addition of neutral tiles and stone, all sourced locally,' says Sarah.

The family are looking forward to celebrating a white Christmas and joyous New Year here. 'It will be relaxed but festive with great food, warm log fires, lots of games – there will be Christmas decorations, of course, and a big tree standing in one of the corners,' says Louise. But more than that, the family are revelling in the enjoyment their home keeps on giving. 'It's hard to explain, but it has a wow factor that was definitely missing before,' says Louise. 'The space has changed so much through the lighting, the new stone, wood and furniture – and it was all achieved without the headache of major structural work.' ㉕

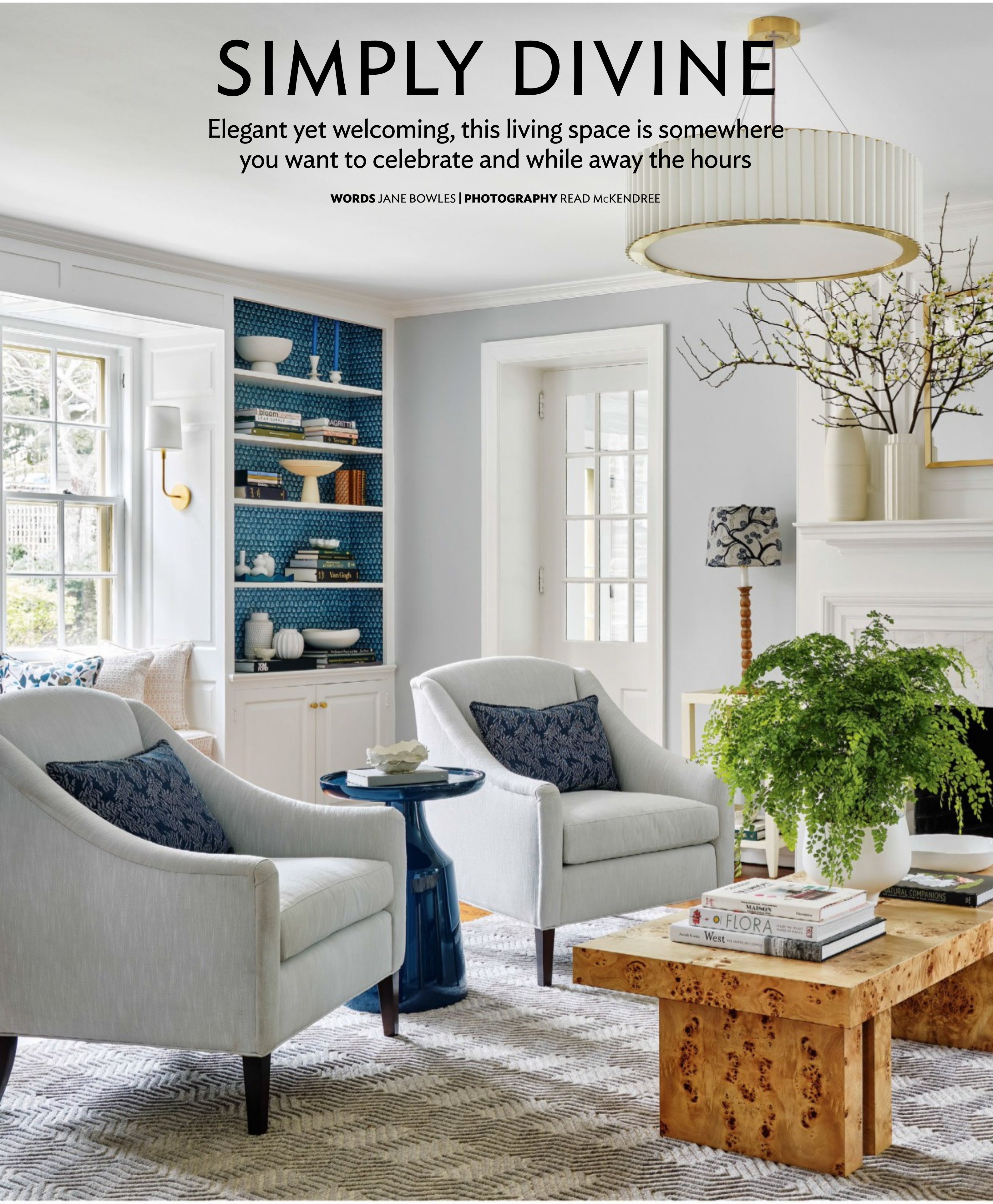
foxinteriordesign.com

MAIN BEDROOM
'We designed the headboard to incorporate side tables with integral light switches and charging sockets,' says Sarah. See polished plaster wall finishes at Topcret. Headboard in Natives Movida by Élitis. Leo switched reading lights, Astro. Find a similar throw at Nordic Nest. Bed linen, Zara Home

LANDING
The staircase was lightened (from a deeper, more orange shade) to match the new oak panelling and ceiling. Find a similar rug at Nordic Knots. For similar fine art prints, take a look at King & McGaw

BUNK BEDS
The sloped ceiling was clad with a soft oak brossé (textured wood) for a more modern feel. Find a similar bunk bed and chest of drawers at Habitat. See bed linen and a throw like this at John Lewis & Partners. Carpet, Creatuft

MAIN BATHROOM
'There is nothing more magical than bathing with a view through the skylights of snow falling on the landscape,' says Sarah. Cielo Shui bath, Ceramica Cielo basins and Gessi Inciso taps, all C.P. Hart

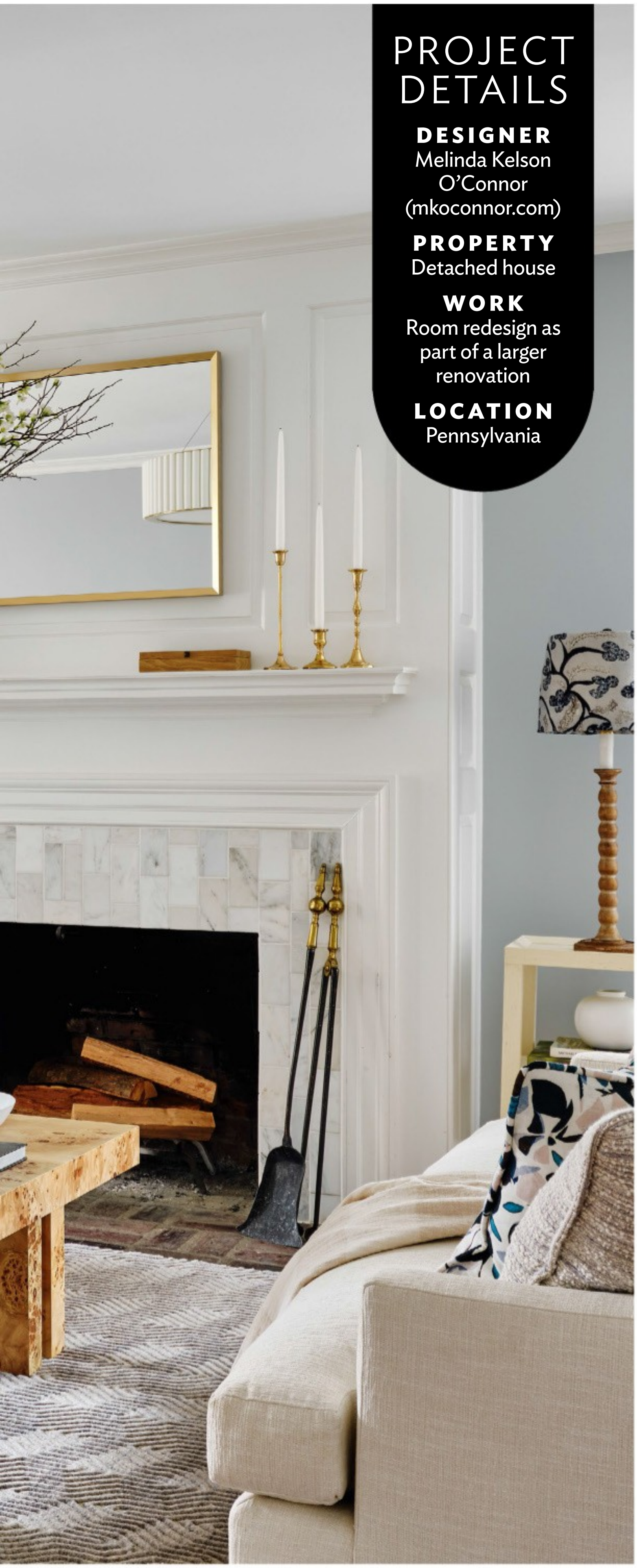


SIMPLY DIVINE

Elegant yet welcoming, this living space is somewhere you want to celebrate and while away the hours

WORDS JANE BOWLES | **PHOTOGRAPHY** READ McKENDREE

no.6



PROJECT DETAILS

DESIGNER
Melinda Kelson O'Connor
(mkoconnor.com)

PROPERTY
Detached house

WORK
Room redesign as part of a larger renovation

LOCATION
Pennsylvania

Designer Melinda Kelson O'Connor was tasked with giving a sitting room a new look. 'My clients wanted a beautiful, refined aesthetic that would also be welcoming and liveable,' she says. 'It had to be elegant, whilst still retaining a relaxed, comfortable feel.'

1 KEEPING IT LIGHT

'The spacious sitting room was used for a range of different activities, including entertaining, family gatherings, board games and socialising, as well as reading and relaxing,' says Melinda. 'This called for varied lighting options, so we updated the lighting plan, added decorative lighting and changed the recessed lighting. Creating better, dimmable layers of light in the room gave us the range of lighting options we wanted.'

2 NATURAL LOOK

When planning the decor, Melinda looked to the natural world for inspiration.'The goal was to integrate the palette and understated design language we used in the rest of the renovation, which leaned into a range of blues, blue-greens, neutrals and whites,' she says. 'We chose patterns and colours found in nature, which echoed the quiet, tranquil setting of the house.'

3 DESIGN DETAILS

Melinda introduced both playfulness and sophistication into the space with a carefully curated palette of colours and patterns. 'The patterns evoke branches, leaves and floral elements drawn from nature in harmonious colour combinations,' she says. 'The sitting room overlooks the garden, so all these different patterns tied in well.'

4 FOCUS ON FUNCTION

Since the sitting room is used for several different activities, Melinda created distinct areas for sitting and socialising, weaving related colours and textures from one area to the next. 'The owners love it!' she says. 'It feels calm and inviting, while also interesting and polished. The focus is on the space and its connection to the people, the house and setting – it has a quiet beauty.'

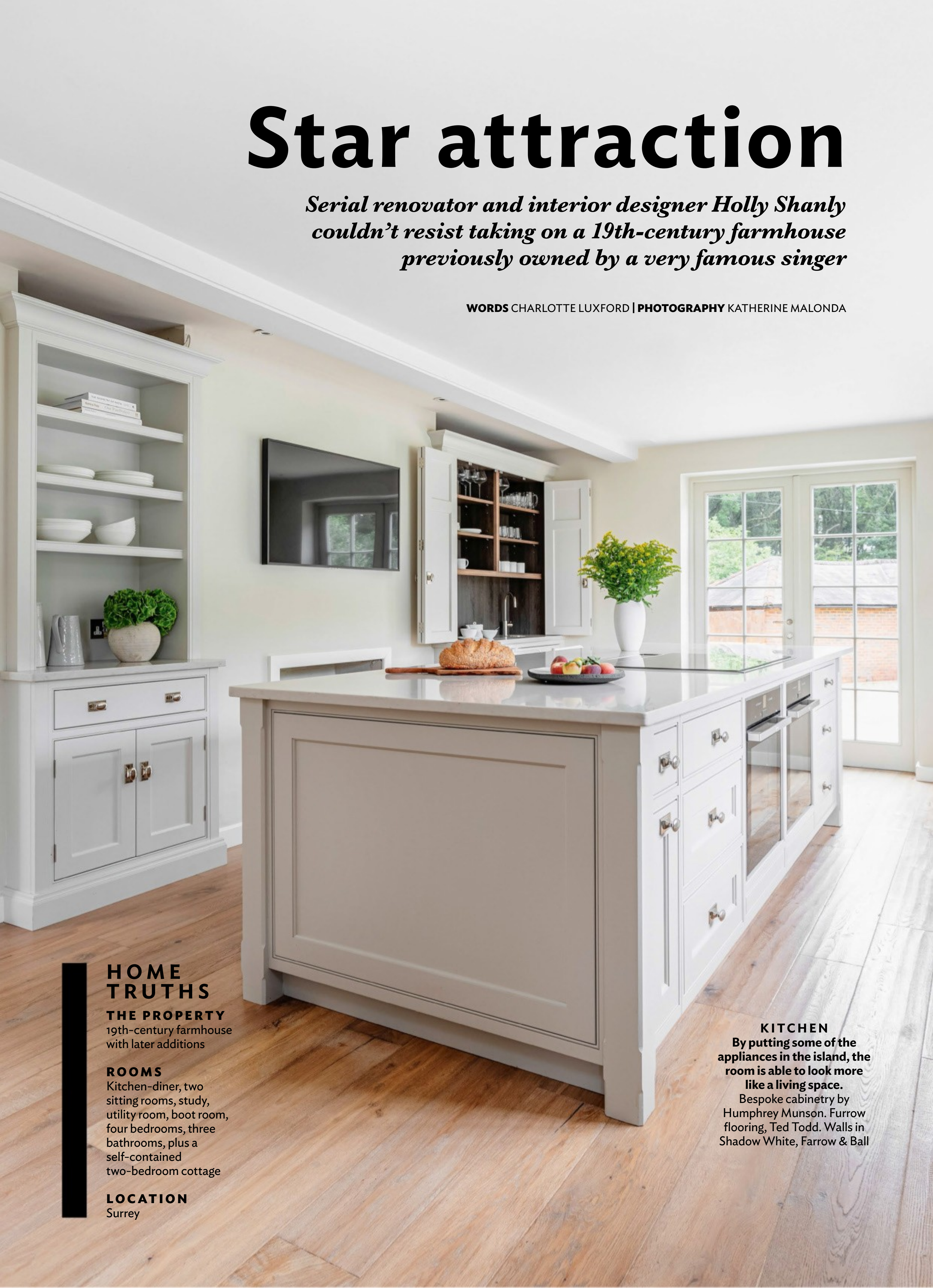
ARTFUL BLEND

Melinda has selected larger pieces that are 'quiet and neutral', allowing the accents to build the finished look. The burl coffee table, wooden lamp bases and brass details all add warmth to balance the refinement.
Palati pendant **light**, Visual Comfort & Co. **Walls** in similar colour to Ammonite, Farrow & Ball. Try Burl **coffee table**, Ferm Living at Made In Design. Bead **table lamp**, Soho Home, has this look. Similar Hughes **armchair**, Oka. Boho Brown Mix **rug**, Nordic Knots, is similar. Try Coralli **wallpaper** in Blue, Jane Churchill. Knurl **mirror** in Antique Brass, John Lewis & Partners, would work

Star attraction

Serial renovator and interior designer Holly Shanly couldn't resist taking on a 19th-century farmhouse previously owned by a very famous singer

WORDS CHARLOTTE LUXFORD | **PHOTOGRAPHY** KATHERINE MALONDA



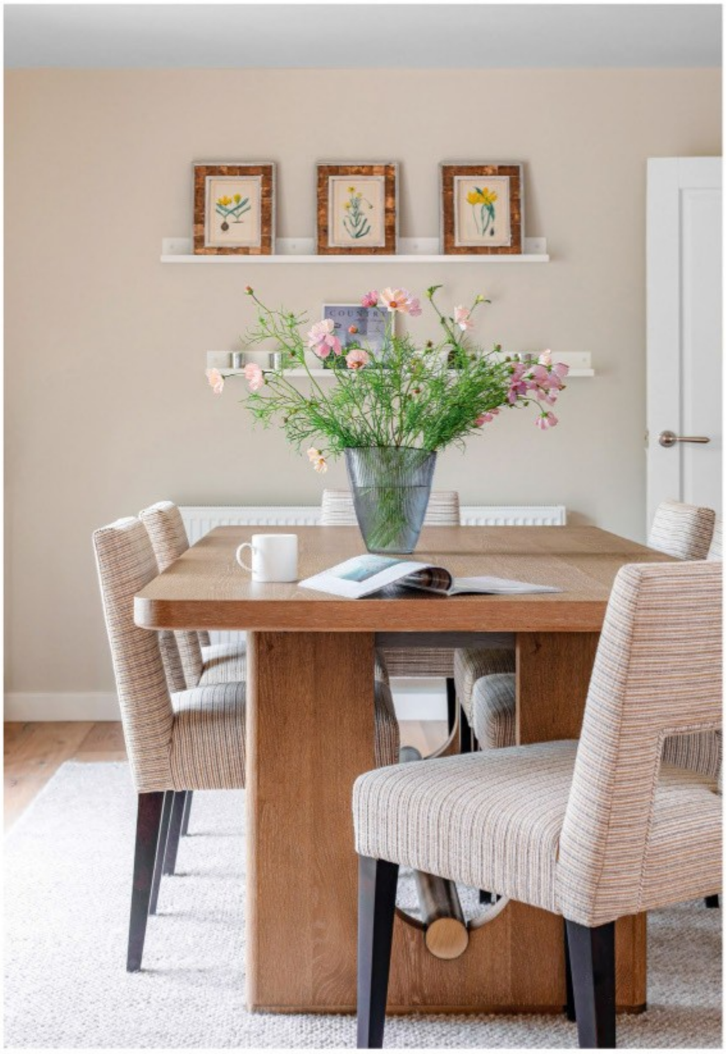
KITCHEN
By putting some of the appliances in the island, the room is able to look more like a living space. Bespoke cabinetry by Humphrey Munson. Furrow flooring, Ted Todd. Walls in Shadow White, Farrow & Ball

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
19th-century farmhouse with later additions

ROOMS
Kitchen-diner, two sitting rooms, study, utility room, boot room, four bedrooms, three bathrooms, plus a self-contained two-bedroom cottage

LOCATION
Surrey

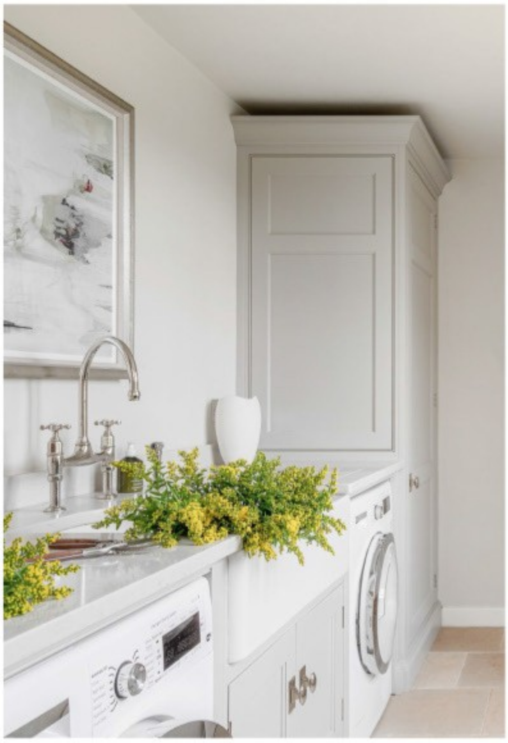


It was meant to be 'just a quick look' when Holly Shanly spotted the Kinks lead singer Ray Davies' house for sale – a stone's throw from her current recently renovated home in Surrey. However, her buyer's instinct kicked in and once Holly had viewed the Victorian farmhouse, she knew this was her next project.

'Much to my children's annoyance, I have a track record of buying old houses, renovating them and then moving on to the next one that catches my eye!' laughs Holly, interior designer and founder of Aspen House Interiors. 'I understand why many people prefer the ease of owning a new build, but I've always been drawn to the challenge that comes with breathing life into an older home.'

Gutting a 19th-century property isn't for the faint-hearted, but as a former buying agent for one of London's most successful search companies, plus with experience running her own design studio, Holly was well-placed to take on the project.

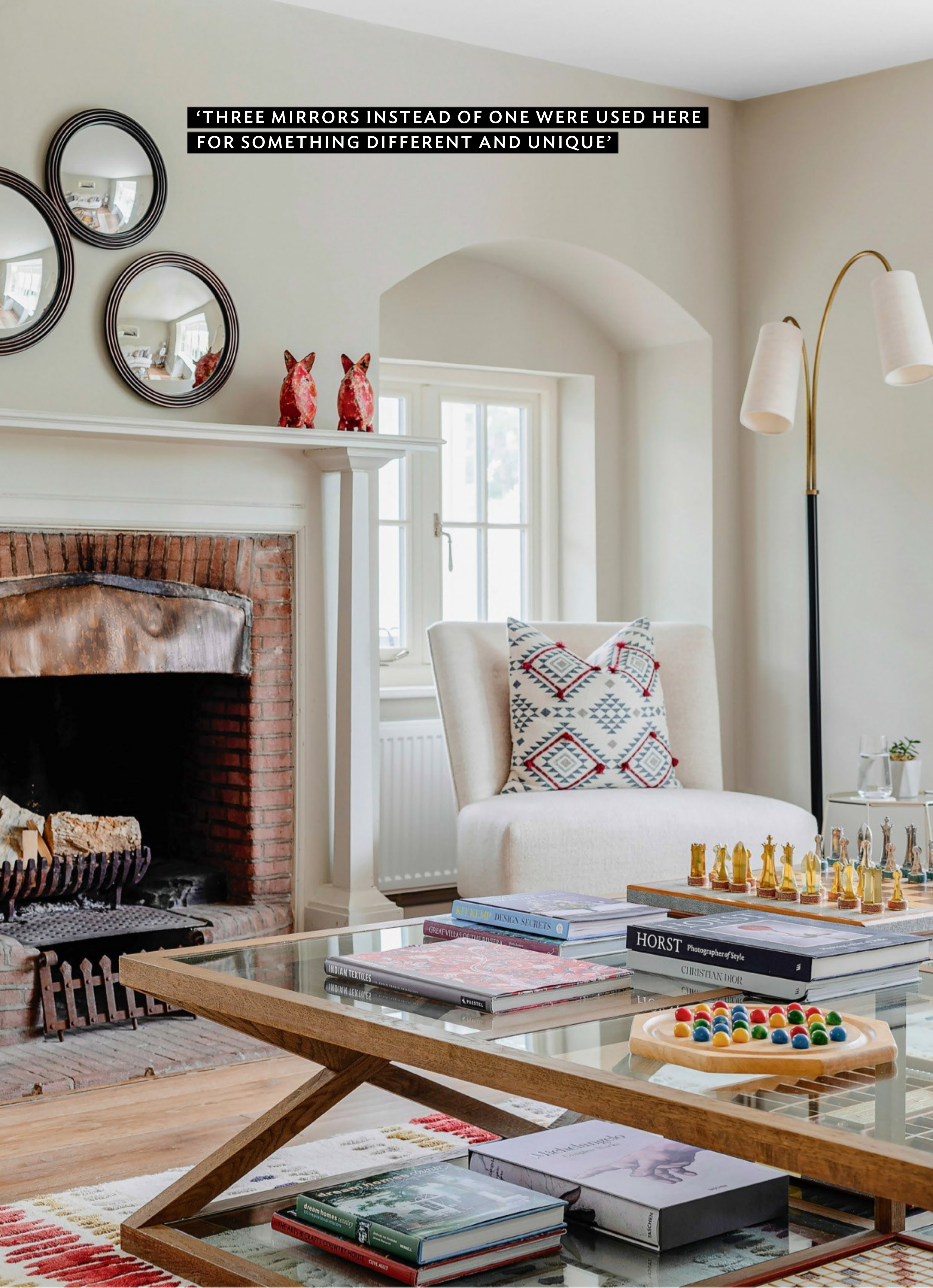
'The house was a rough gem,' sighs Holly. 'You could see it had the potential to be a beautiful home; it just needed someone to come in and give it some TLC. I don't think Ray had actually spent much time there – it looked like it had been rented out or left empty for



DINING ROOM
'The cut-out in the dining chairs creates a visual link to the similarly designed table,' explains Holly. Charlie extendable dining table, Andrew Martin. Hugo dining chairs, The Sofa & Chair Company. Try the Tall ribbed glass vase in Charcoal, ShopTaylormade4you on Etsy. Oka sells similar vintage botanical prints

UTILITY ROOM
A hard-wearing and easy-to-clean stone floor is a practical choice for this space and the addition of plenty of built-in storage makes keeping it clutter-free a breeze. St Arbois Tumbled Limestone floor tiles, Mandarin Stone. Cabinetry, Humphrey Munson. Tap, Perrin & Rowe

‘THREE MIRRORS INSTEAD OF ONE WERE USED HERE FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT AND UNIQUE’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many years, so by the time it came to market it was definitely a doer-upper with damp, asbestos and Artex ceilings to contend with!'

The farmhouse was an architectural hodgepodge, thanks to a multitude of extensions over the years, with a muddled room layout that wasn't conducive to modern living – including accessing the main bedroom via the en suite. Luckily, the plot came with a self-contained cottage, so the family hunkered down there while the year-long renovation began.

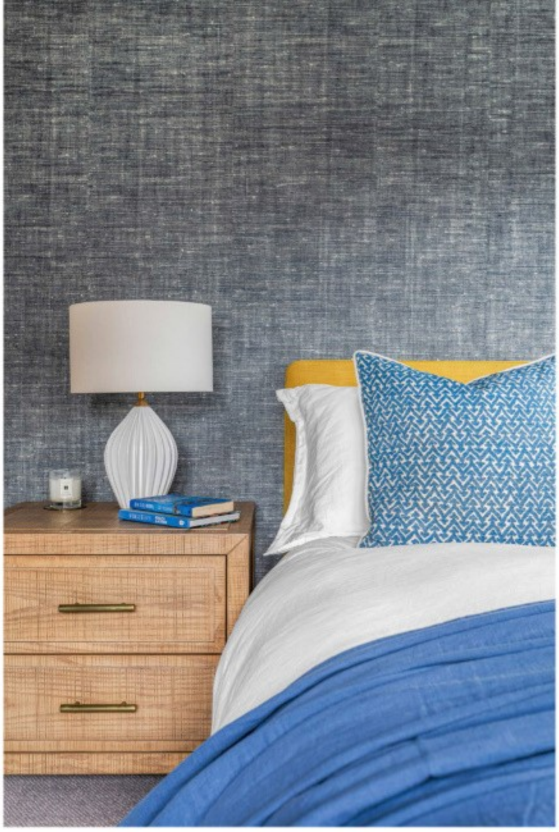
Once the asbestos had been removed, Holly took the ground floor back to bare brick to damp-proof the building. She also installed new windows, with rewiring and replumbing required, plus she made numerous changes to the layout, including moving the kitchen to the south-facing side of the house.

'The property started life as a farmhouse so I was keen to keep the aesthetic simple,' explains Holly. 'It needed to feel comfortable and welcoming. When redesigning the layout we considered creating a grand entrance hall but it felt at odds with the soul of the house. Instead, we opted for a small lobby leading straight into the kitchen which is the heart of every home.' With two generous sitting rooms, Holly redesigned the

WINTER ROOM
Opting for an armless style chair and a neutral colour ensures the chairs don't overwhelm the space and leaves the fireplace free to take pride of place as the main focus of the room. Orwell armchair, The Sofa & Chair Company. Cushion and Marylebone coffee table, Oka. Kelly floor lamp, Porta Romana. Draxon rug in Russet, William Yeoward

SUMMER ROOM
A light and airy scheme is ideal for the warmer months. Beaumont sofa, The Sofa & Chair Company. Artwork, Quintessa

STAIRCASE
The only key feature of the house that was maintained during the renovation was the ornate period staircase. 'I kept it because it was a lovely detail,' says Holly.

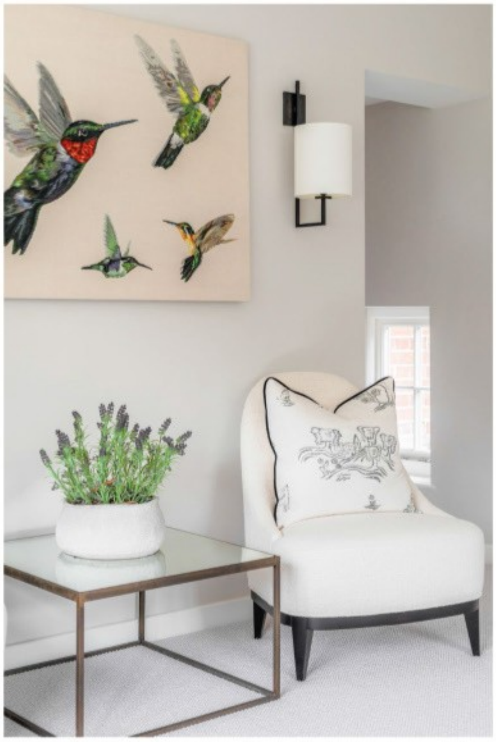


spaces to work with the seasons; the 'winter room' has a cosy feel to it, with rich accent colours and a focal-point fireplace, while in summer the family gravitates towards the light-filled reception room that opens out onto a west-facing terrace. Nestled in the middle of a large plot and thanks to its unusual shape, almost every room has a double or triple aspect.

'I generally stuck to neutral colours throughout, which has helped unify the quirky layout and also blurred the boundaries between house and garden without having to resort to vast open-plan spaces or large bifold doors – both of which would have been completely out of keeping with the building itself,' explains Holly.

The family moved back into the main house, just in time to celebrate on Christmas Eve. 'The bare plaster and lack of skirting boards didn't exactly tick the festive box but we made up for it with an abundance of fairy lights,' laughs Holly. 'I love the fact that the house is as capable of having 20+ for Christmas lunch as it is for providing a corner to curl up in with a good book. It's been a privilege to work on and I like to think the house is now at peace – it's been reinstated as a welcoming family home that I like to think will still be there in another 150 years.'

aspenhouseinteriors.co.uk



MAIN EN SUITE
'Relaxation was the key word in the brief for this bathroom,' says Holly. The free-standing bath gives the room a luxurious feel. Albany bath, Arcade. Artwork, Trowbridge Gallery

SON'S BEDROOM
'Settling on a scheme that your teenager isn't going to grow out of can be tricky so my advice would be to keep it simple,' says Holly. Hemp Vinyl wallpaper in Cobalt, Christopher Farr Cloth

MAIN BEDROOM
'A small seating area provides a welcome alternative to having to perch on the side of the bed,' says Holly. Stanley chair, The Sofa & Chair Company. Friendly Folk cushion, Kit Kemp for Andrew Martin

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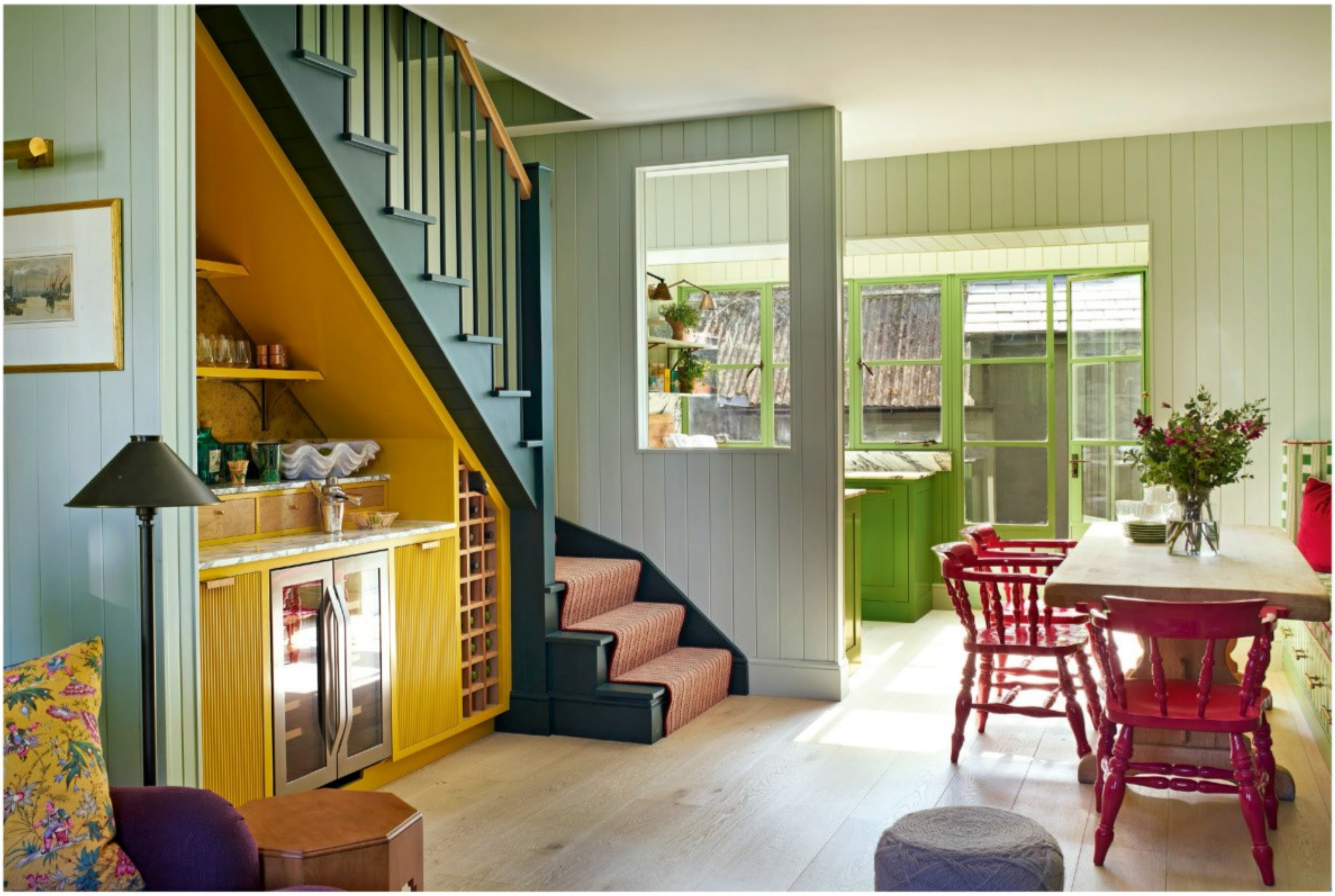
COMFORT & JOY

A delightful colour palette brought renewed joy to this much-loved coastal holiday cottage, thanks to designer Melissa Hutley's impeccable style

WORDS JANE CRITTENDEN | **PHOTOGRAPHY** RACHAEL SMITH



UNDERSTAIRS BAR

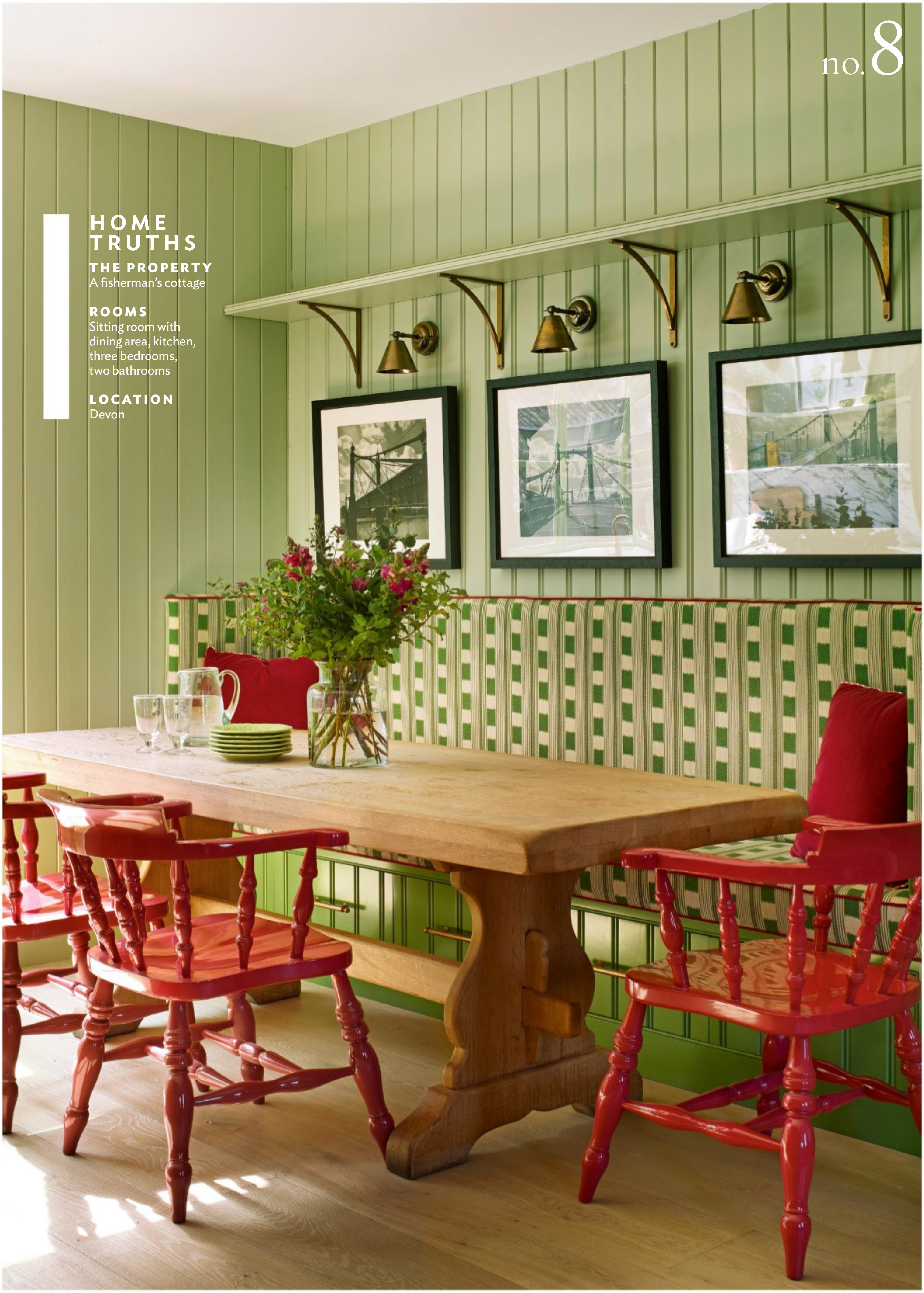
'The mirrored bar is a fun and unexpected addition and the colour it is painted in has a beautiful golden quality to it during the evening,' says Melissa.

Bar painted in Gamboge, Paint & Paper Library. Stairs painted in Malachite, Fired Earth

DINING AREA

'The client wanted to keep the captain's chairs from his childhood,' says Melissa. 'They are sprayed in a crimson raspberry lacquer to pop against the green tones.'

Banquette upholstered in Christopher Farr's Lost and Found CF109-02, Hutley & Humm. Dining table, Sussex Antiques and Interiors



no. 8

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
A fisherman's cottage

ROOMS
Sitting room with dining area, kitchen, three bedrooms, two bathrooms

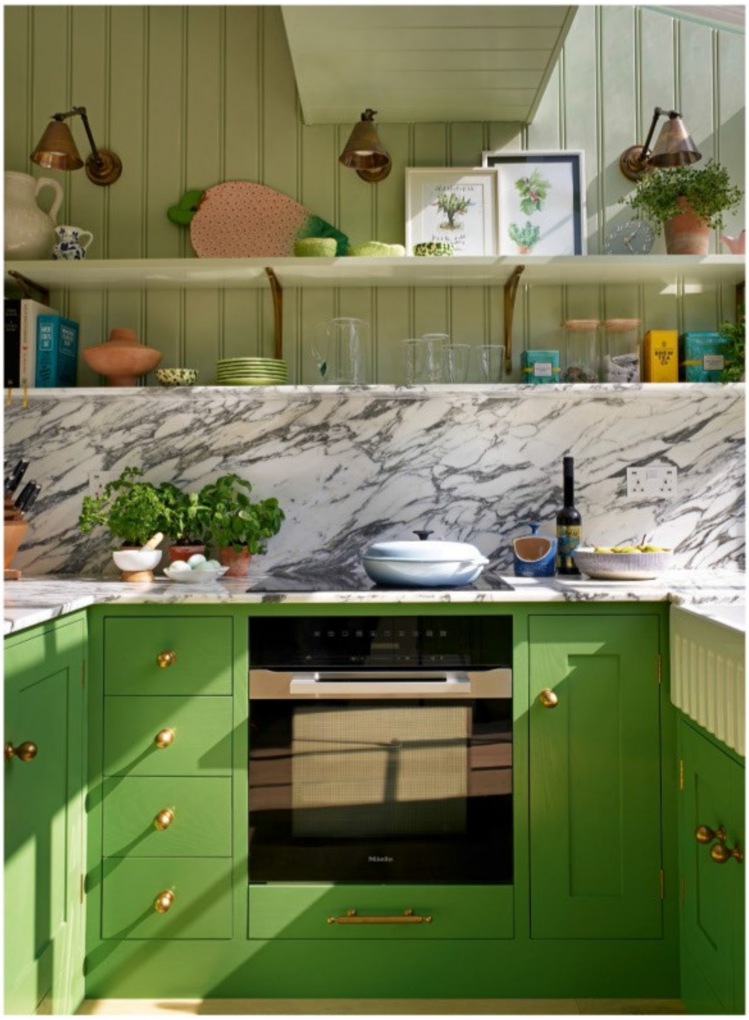
LOCATION
Devon

HOW DID YOU COME TO BE INVOLVED WITH THIS PROJECT? The fisherman's cottage in Devon had been the childhood home of the client husband and when his parents decided to move, they decided to buy it as a holiday house to keep in the family. We'd already worked on the clients' London home and they asked us back to modernise the property. It's in an incredible location looking out across the sea. We find clients are braver and more open to exploring ideas when it's not their primary home, so we knew it would be a fun project to work on.

WHAT WAS THE CLIENTS' BRIEF? Our clients wanted to bring the old terrace back to life with a completely new look and feel. Our objective was to bring in personality and create spaces that would comfortably accommodate them, their two teenage children and their friends on family holidays. We turned a narrow double bedroom into a cool bunk room with four beds and a TV for rainy days. On the open-plan ground floor, green tones connect the different spaces with colour pops and lighting to give them their own atmosphere during the evenings.

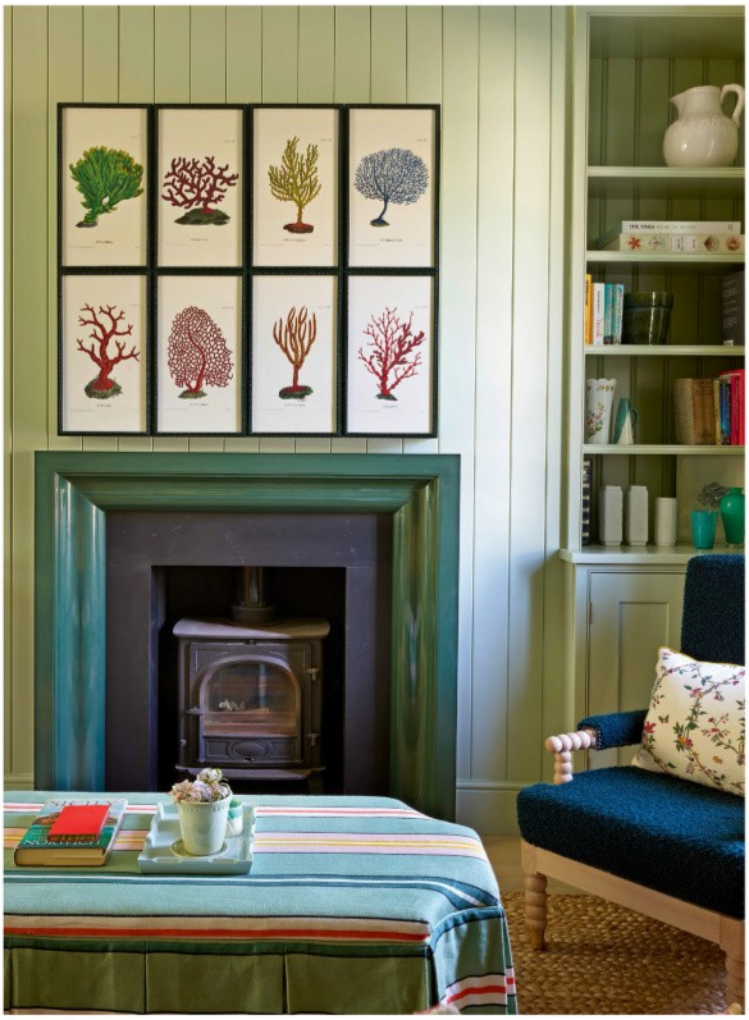
WHERE DID YOU SEEK INSPIRATION? The clients were thinking about blues and whites because of the coastal location, but even in summer, the air becomes

> 'The key to mixing pattern in the living area was sticking with one colour family in the same tone and upholstering larger furniture in plain fabrics'



KITCHEN

'The compact space allowed us to take a leap with a bold marble pattern for maximum impact,' says Melissa.
Arabescato marble worktop and splashback, Luxmoore & Co. Cupboards painted in Invisible Green; panelling painted in Celadon, both Edward Bulmer Natural Paint



SITTING ROOM

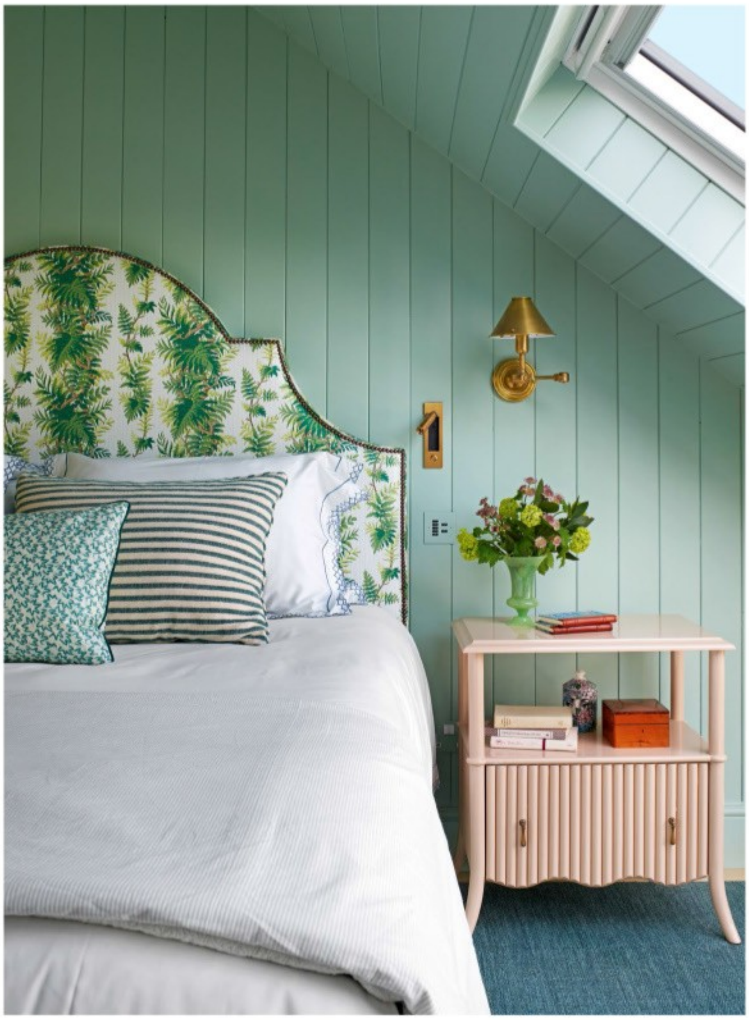
The clients' artwork slots into the doors of a bespoke TV cabinet.
'Now you see me, now you don't' TV unit; bobbin chairs upholstered in Pierre Frey's Opio in Prussiana, all Hutley & Humm. Ottoman upholstered in Sporty Stripes in Green, Ottoline. Artwork, from clients' collection

damp and cool in the evening so we thought this might feel too stark. We often begin with a statement textile and build a scheme around it. Here, we put together a warmer palette inspired by a Pierre Frey fabric with a butterfly and leaf print for the sitting room curtains. We loved the emerald, eau de Nil, shots of yellow, deep burgundy, raspberry and cobbled blue, which gave us so much colour to work with.

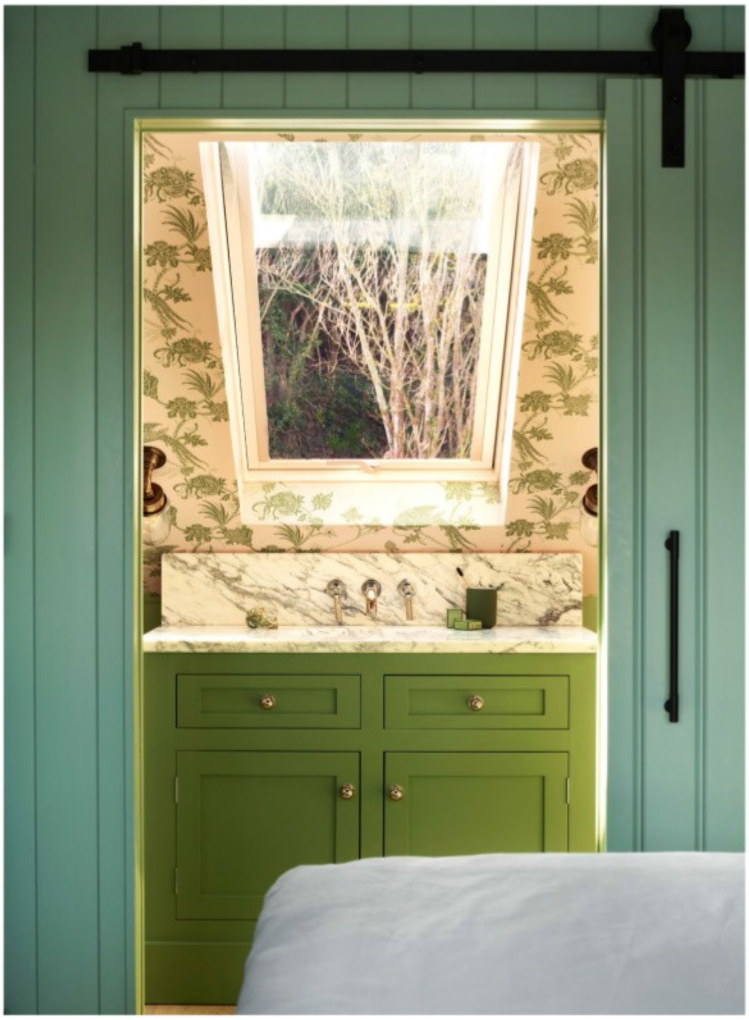
HOW DID THE SCHEME DEVELOP?
We pulled out the green from the fabric because we see it as a calm neutral that also brings warmth to an evening atmosphere. Mostly, Edward Bulmer's Celadon threads throughout the cottage, providing a coastal feel that blends with the darker and richer green tones. Furniture draws on bold jewel colours – navy, aubergine, raspberry – while the golden yellow bar pops. Touches of the nautical are nuanced in the wood panelling, TV cabinet coral art, striped blinds and metallic wall lights.

WHAT DO THE CLIENTS THINK?
The clients put their trust in us to push them with colour and we must have hit the right notes as they say they get so much joy staying here. We're delighted, particularly as the property has been in the family for so long, – it's a new chapter for the cottage and everyone who comes here. ㉕
hutley-humm.com

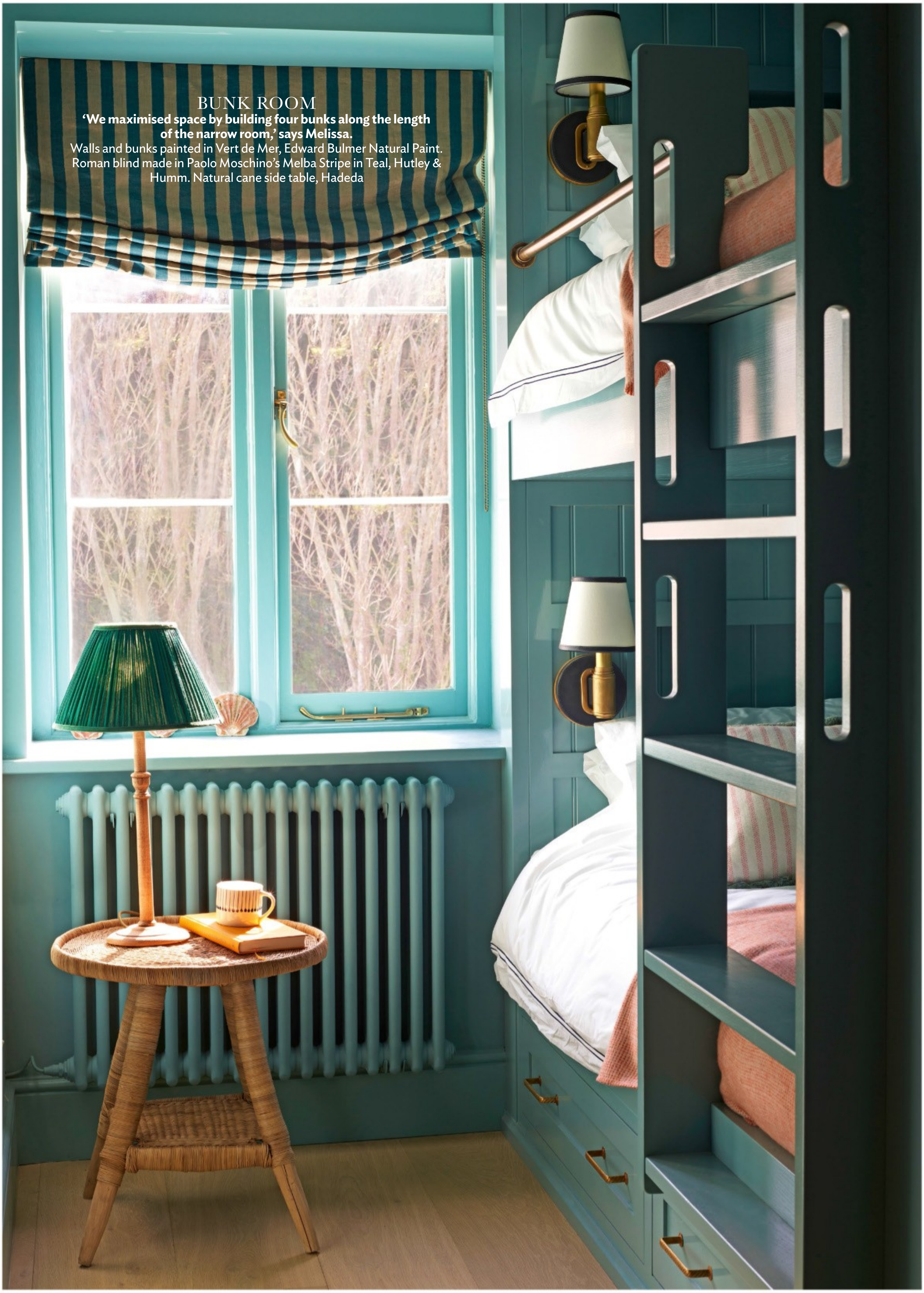
> 'We wanted the cottage to feel like it belonged to its coastal environment, but also feel cosy when the curtains are pulled and the fire is lit'



MAIN BEDROOM
'For this calm space, we took colour inspiration from the beautiful headboard fabric,' says Melissa.
Upholstery in Fern Stripe in Lime Green/Blue JM-931, Turnell & Gigon. Panelling painted in Green Blue, Farrow & Ball. Avalon bedside table in Ecru, Trove by Studio Duggan



EN SUITE
'We made a feature of the sloping ceiling with a bold wallpaper, which has a design inspired by a 19th-century French quilt,' says Melissa. The green colour is continued on the vanity unit.
Vintage Bird Trail wallpaper in Pink/Green, Barneby Gates. Bespoke vanity painted in Breakfast Room Green, Farrow & Ball



BUNK ROOM

'We maximised space by building four bunks along the length of the narrow room,' says Melissa.
Walls and bunks painted in Vert de Mer, Edward Bulmer Natural Paint. Roman blind made in Paolo Moschino's Melba Stripe in Teal, Hutley & Humm. Natural cane side table, Hadeda

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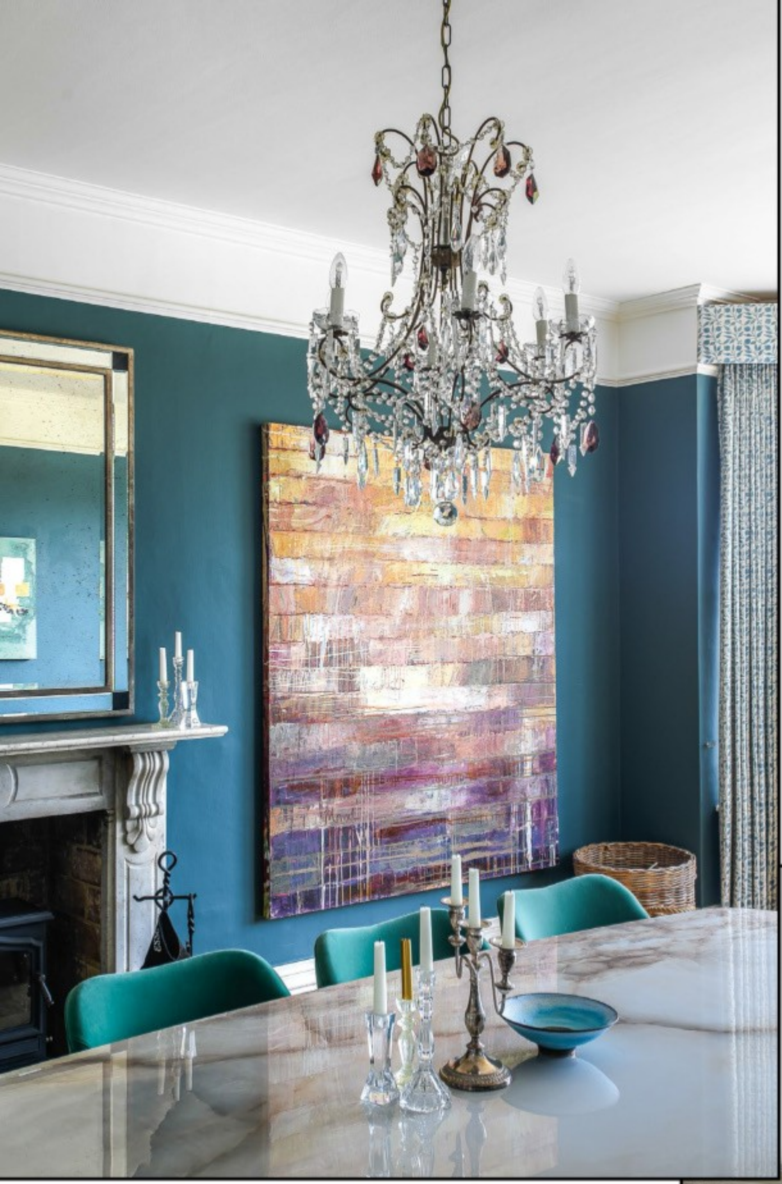
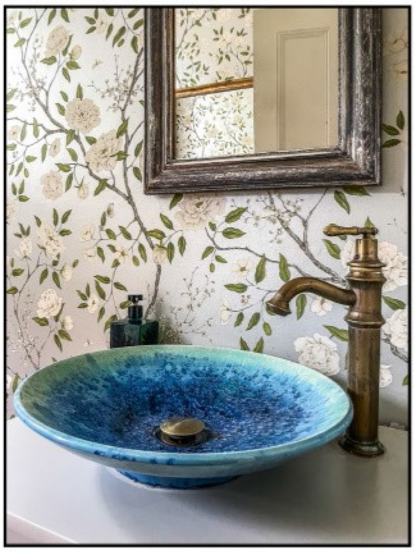
ART of the MATTER

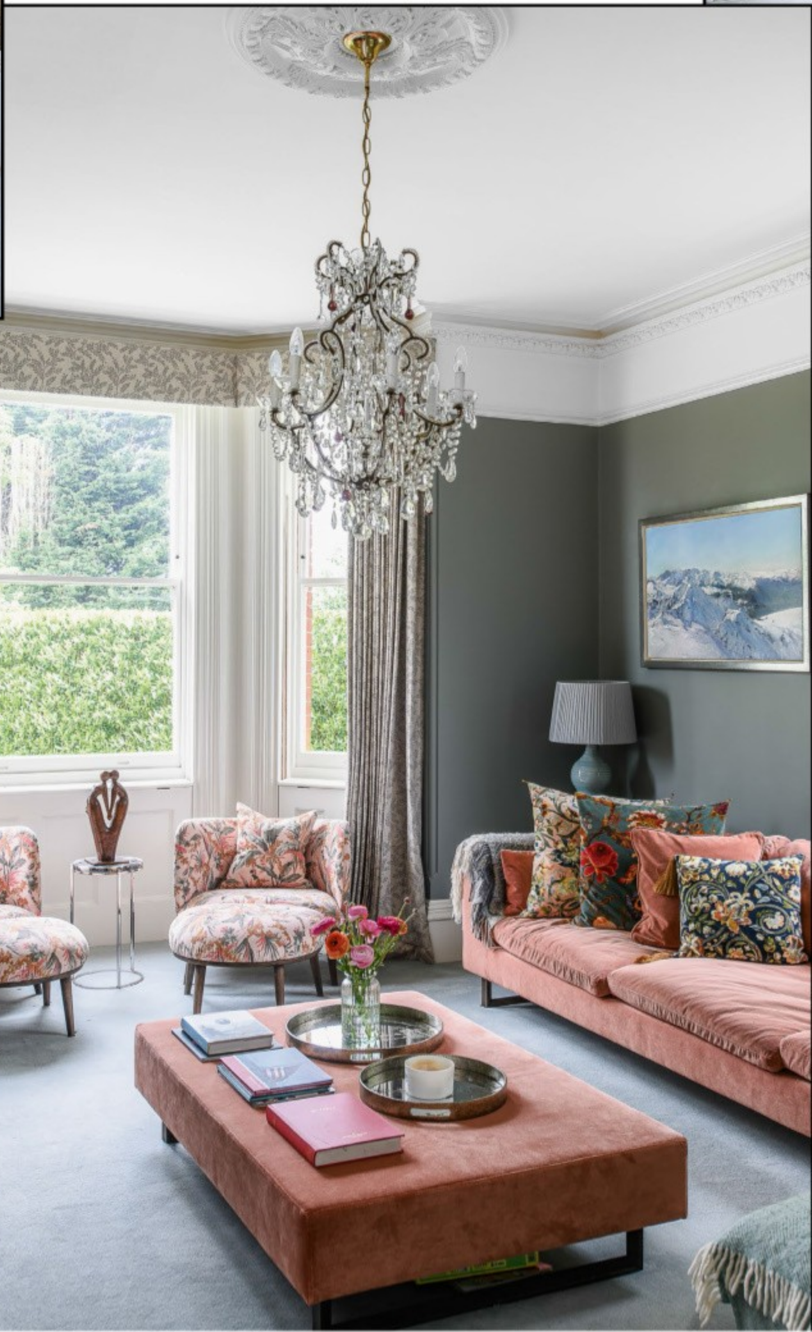
DINING ROOM
A triptych pops against the rich blue wall. *Early Morning, Serengeti Search*, mixed media on canvas, Jan Coutts. Madison chairs, Love Your Home. Walls in Inchyra Blue, Farrow & Ball

Gallerist Laura Walford's home is a convivial place that plays host to an ever-changing display of art and sculpture

WORDS RACHEL LEEDHAM | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DAVID MEREWETHER







DINING ROOM
A chandelier emphasises the ceiling height, while deep blue walls create a touch of drama. Antique chandelier, Norfolk Decorative Antiques. *Already it is Dusk*, oil on canvas, Monroe Hodder

CLOAKROOM
The turquoise basin was bought on a trip to Australia years ago and has travelled from house to house with the couple ever since. Wall in Romey's Garden, Zoffany. Try The Hoarde for a similar antique mirror

SITTING ROOM
Comfortable seating and blue-grey walls lend a cosy, inviting feel. Sofa, ottoman, armchairs and footstools, all Love Your Home. Antique chandelier, Callie Hollenden. *Landscapes of Verbier*, oil on canvas, Victor Egorov. Walls in Pigeon, Farrow & Ball

KITCHEN
Large sliding doors frame the garden, with its fortunei palms which were brought to the UK by the original owner's famed botanist grandfather, Robert Fortune. Cabinetry, SJ Epps Joinery; in Drop Cloth, Farrow & Ball. The Weathered Oak counter stool in walnut effect from Cox & Cox is a similar design. *Rosé Cooling*, acrylic on canvas, Lincoln Seligman

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Victorian detached house

ROOMS Kitchen-diner, utility room, sitting room, dining room, snug, gallery space, office, five bedrooms, four bathrooms, separate two-bedroom annexe

LOCATION Surrey

When Laura and Adam Walford decided to move their family from London to the Surrey Hills, their brief to estate agents was quite specific. 'As well as lots of light, we needed big walls where we could hang very large paintings,' recalls Laura, who together with her mother, Anna Hunter, runs Belgravia Gallery, an art gallery founded by Anna over 35 years ago. Laura continues, 'Our decision to move out of the city came at the same time that we decided to close the London gallery, so I needed the house to be both a family home and a place where we could have an ever-evolving display of artwork to show our clients.'

Dating to the 1880s, this late Victorian house was built by the grandson of Robert Fortune, a renowned Scottish botanist who brought around 250 new ornamental species from China and Japan to the West. 'The house has a beautiful garden that still includes some of his plants, including 100-year-old fortunei palms,' recounts Laura, adding, 'The Victorian architecture really appealed as it has lovely high ceilings and big windows; we could see that it would offer a great backdrop to the art.'

The couple redecorated the interiors and refurbished a two-bedroom annexe in the grounds, but it wasn't until five years later that they tackled the kitchen. 'This way we were able to get a real sense of how we used the space and what we wanted to change,' says Laura of the new light-filled extension which has opened the house up to the garden. 'It's an incredibly convivial space and it also enjoys some of the best sunsets,' she adds.

'SCULPTURE CAN OFTEN BE OVERLOOKED BUT I THINK THAT IT IS WONDERFUL FOR ADDING ANOTHER DIMENSION TO A HOME'

The gallery champions both emerging and established talent and it also has an important charitable ethos, teaming up with the then HRH The Prince of Wales to sell signed lithographs of his watercolours, and launching Nelson Mandela's limited edition signed lithographs to raise valuable funds for charity. Unsurprisingly, Laura believes that art is fundamental to a home: 'I think it enhances your life,' she declares, adding, 'The saddest thing for me is a home full of blank walls.'

Some of the rooms in the house were painted in strong colours, the deep blue dining room being a case in point. 'Art can really pop on a dark wall although we love pale backdrops, too,' observes Laura, pointing out the hallway where white walls are a foil to vast, textural oil paintings. 'Staircases can be a great place to display large works as you often have a good expanse of wall,' she says. In the sitting room, she chose a blue-grey hue as a backdrop to seating in warm terracotta tones. Here, she has hung landscape paintings of the Swiss Alps. 'I love landscape art as it can almost suggest that a room has another window in it,' she explains.

Laura is keen to emphasise that a restricted budget shouldn't get in the way of owning art: 'Posters or children's paintings can look fantastic on the walls,' she says, adding, 'The important thing is to have it framed nicely as a frame can make or break a piece.' She is also a firm advocate of buying art that you love, rather than as an investment. 'If it goes up in value, then great, but it is far more important to have a piece in your home that inspires you every day.' ㉕

belgraviagallery.com

'CHILDREN'S PAINTINGS CAN LOOK FANTASTIC ON WALLS TOO – THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO HAVE THEM FRAMED NICELY'

MAIN BEDROOM
A delicate chinoiserie pattern helps connect the room with the glorious view beyond the window. Rotherby wallpaper, Zoffany. Bed, Savoir. Bedside tables, Orchid. Versailles dressing table, Oka. Antique chandelier, Norfolk Decorative Antiques

LANDING
The beautiful original woodwork adds a good dose of character. *Swimmers II* (left), oil on canvas, Maria Filopoulou. *Untitled* (right), pastel onto black paper, Charlie Mackesy. Try the Kansa globe pendant light, Tiffany Lighting Direct

MAIN BATHROOM
'When possible, we love to hang art in a bathroom – it dresses the space so nicely,' notes Laura. A huge mirror adds to the sense of space. *Woman Combing*, oil on canvas, Alisa Gibet. Try the copper and verdigris freestanding bathtub, BC Designs. Porcelain floor tiles, Mandarin Stone. Aubrey basins, London Basin Company

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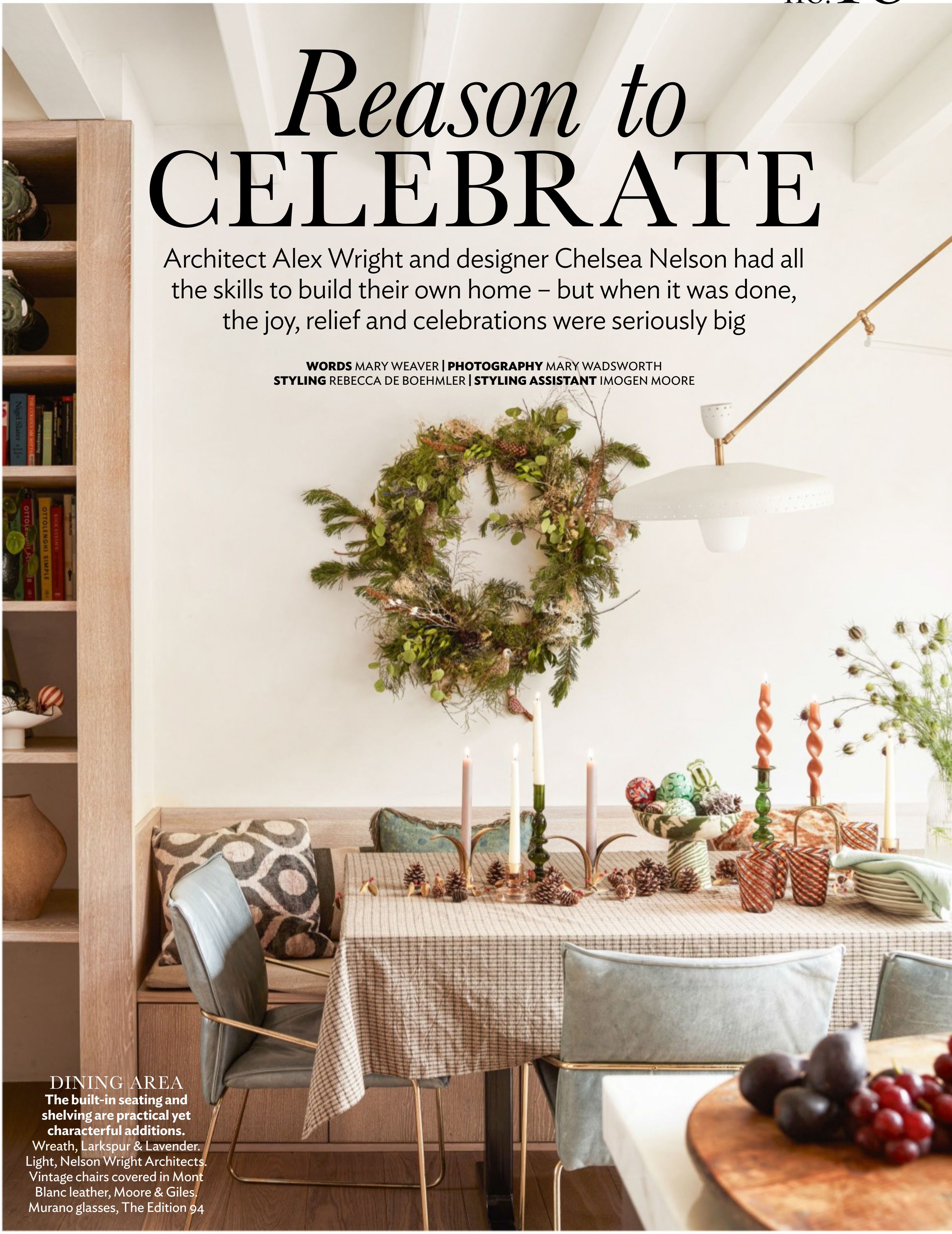
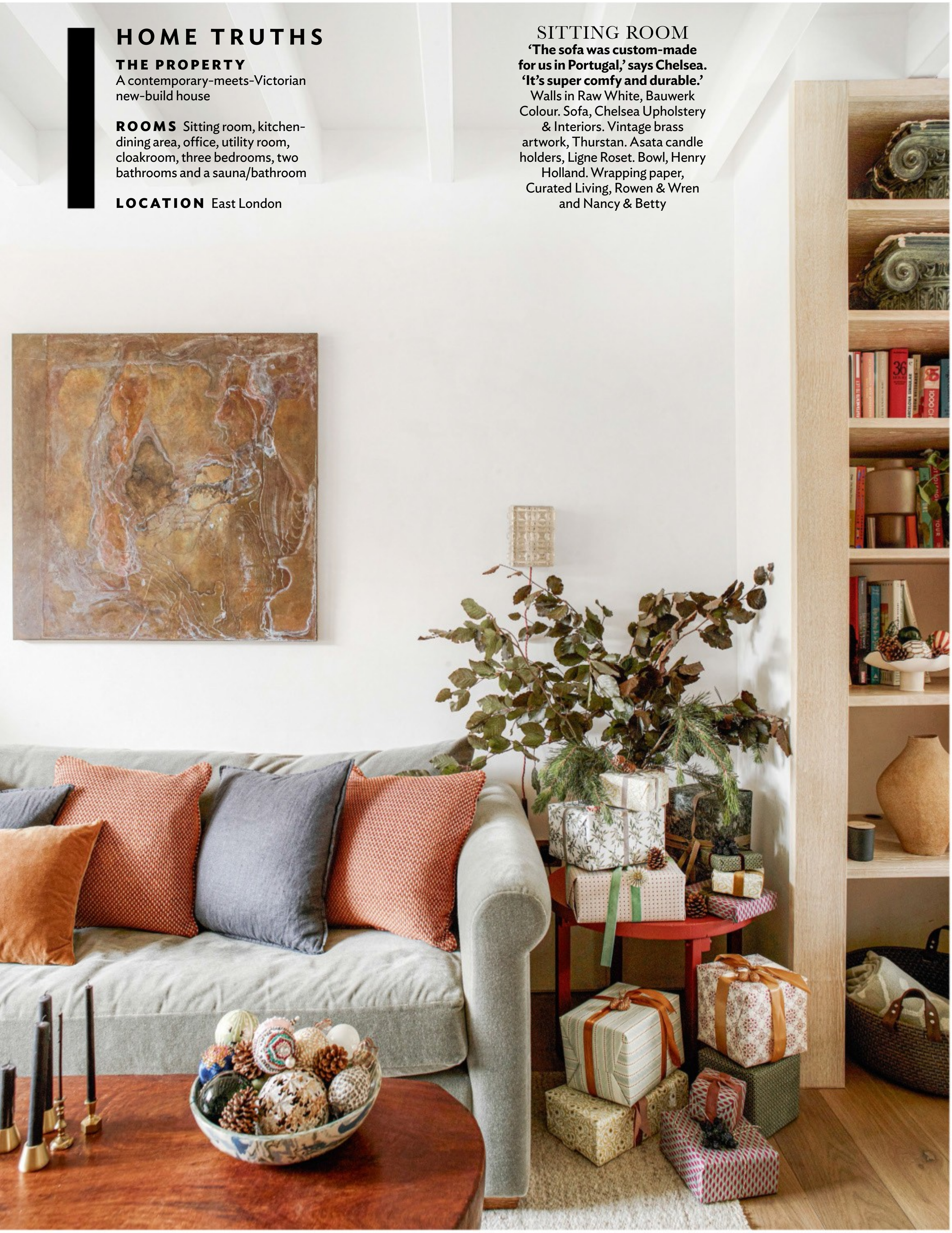


Reason to CELEBRATE

Architect Alex Wright and designer Chelsea Nelson had all the skills to build their own home – but when it was done, the joy, relief and celebrations were seriously big

WORDS MARY WEAVER | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MARY WADSWORTH
STYLING REBECCA DE BOEHMLER | **STYLING ASSISTANT** IMOGEN MOORE

DINING AREA
The built-in seating and shelving are practical yet characterful additions.
Wreath, Larkspur & Lavender. Light, Nelson Wright Architects. Vintage chairs covered in Mont Blanc leather, Moore & Giles. Murano glasses, The Edition 94



HOME TRUTHS

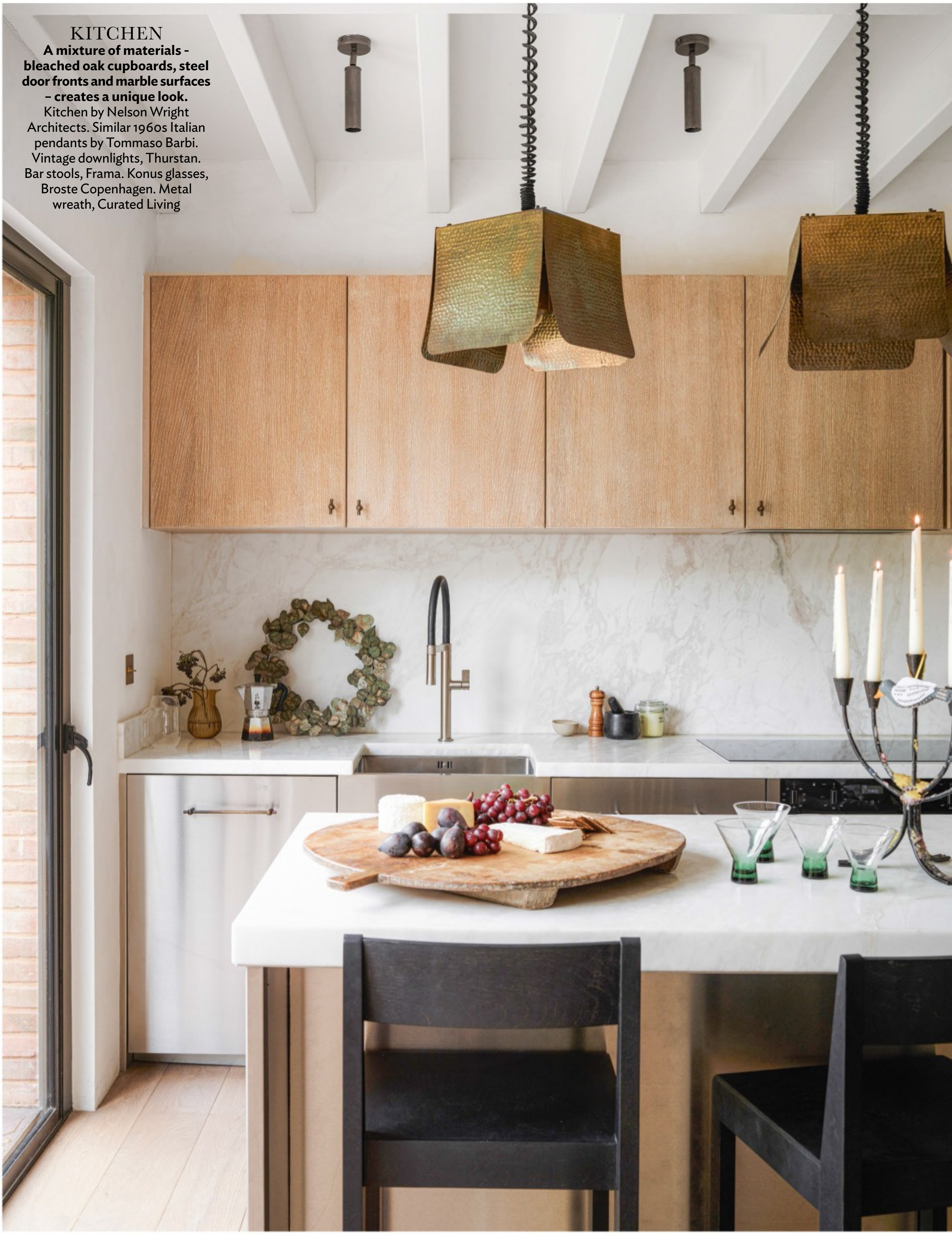
THE PROPERTY
A contemporary-meets-Victorian new-build house

ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-dining area, office, utility room, cloakroom, three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a sauna/bathroom

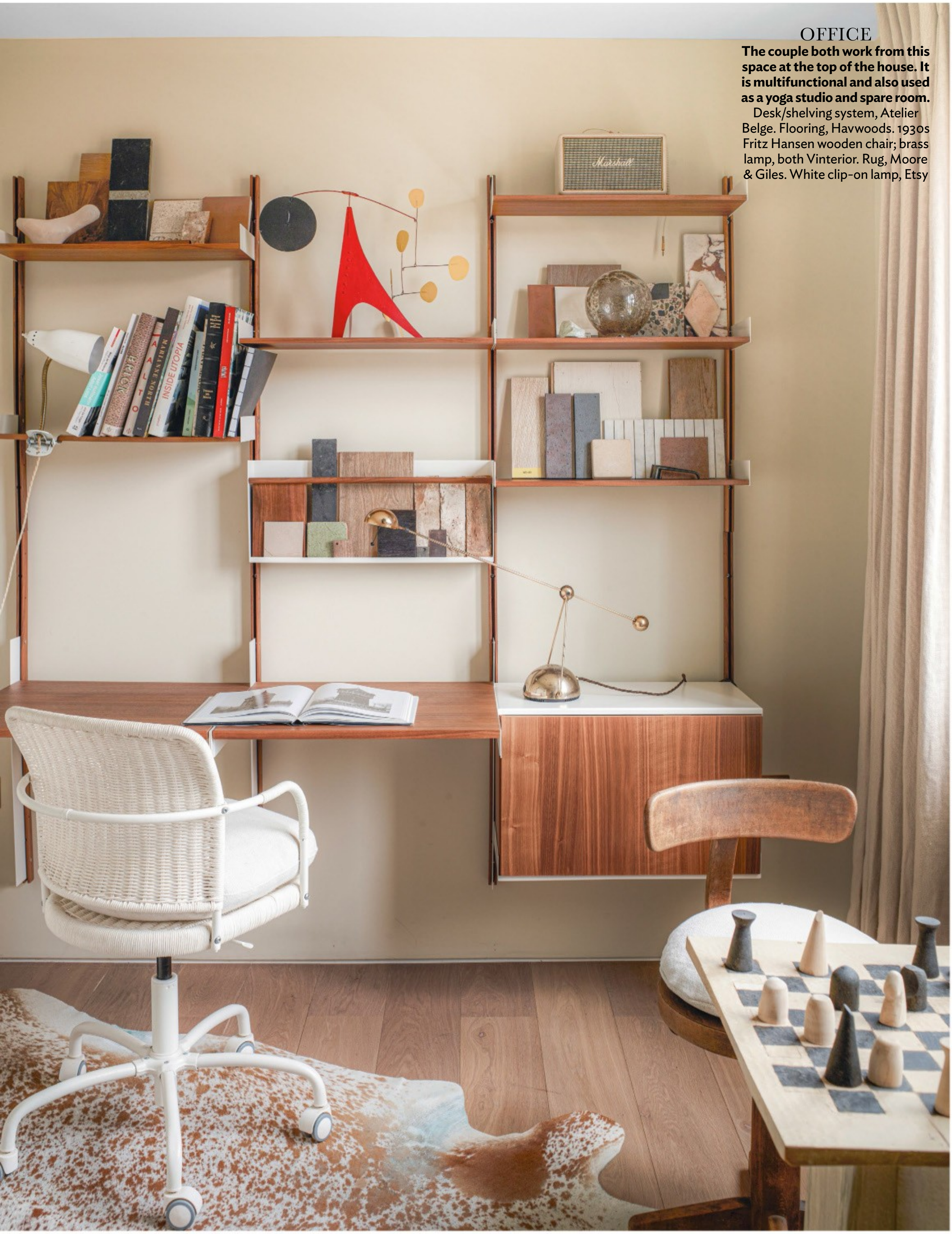
LOCATION East London

SITTING ROOM

'The sofa was custom-made for us in Portugal,' says Chelsea. 'It's super comfy and durable.' Walls in Raw White, Bauwerk Colour. Sofa, Chelsea Upholstery & Interiors. Vintage brass artwork, Thurstan. Asata candle holders, Ligne Roset. Bowl, Henry Holland. Wrapping paper, Curated Living, Rowen & Wren and Nancy & Betty



KITCHEN
A mixture of materials – bleached oak cupboards, steel door fronts and marble surfaces – creates a unique look. Kitchen by Nelson Wright Architects. Similar 1960s Italian pendants by Tommaso Barbi. Vintage downlights, Thurstan. Bar stools, Frama. Konus glasses, Broste Copenhagen. Metal wreath, Curated Living



OFFICE

The couple both work from this space at the top of the house. It is multifunctional and also used as a yoga studio and spare room. Desk/shelving system, Atelier Belge. Flooring, Havwoods. 1930s Fritz Hansen wooden chair; brass lamp, both Vinterior. Rug, Moore & Giles. White clip-on lamp, Etsy

When you've just built a house, plus the one next door, established an architectural practice and had a baby, life can be pretty full-on. So when it comes to the festive season, you deserve to put your feet up. 'We intend to,' says architect Alex Wright, one half, along with interior designer partner Chelsea Nelson, of Nelson Wright Architects. 'My mum is Finnish, so in Scandi-style, we celebrate with our big meal on Christmas Eve with close family who live nearby.'

The next day, the family, including baby Rufus, venture out for a nature walk in the ancient woodland minutes from their home in east London. The couple's festive decorating style reflects their pared-back, millennial-hip house vibe – 'Just elevated with foraged branches, twigs, fir cones and candles to dress it up a bit.'

Life does feel rather surreal for Alex and Chelsea, who went from renting a flat to finding a piece of land, building two houses – they were aiming for one, but luckily a plot next door became available, so it made sense to build two – to living in their own bespoke home, all within just a few years. 'It is quite the dream,' says Alex.

Before establishing their own practice, Alex specialised in residential work for architectural firms and Chelsea was an interior designer at Soho House. The second of the homes they built was sold as soon as it was finished, a sigh of relief for the couple who had been funding the project, with Alex's mother as a

> 'Most of the furniture is either bespoke or vintage, which gives the home a one-of-a-kind look'

SITTING ROOM
Artwork sits amongst the couple's found treasures and books.
Half Return artwork by Adriana Jaros; vase by Jonathan Openshaw, both M.A.H Gallery. Mistletoe brass garland, Heavenly Homes and Gardens

CLOAKROOM
The basin is actually part of a fountain that Chelsea found in Majorca.
Microcement, Nelson Wright Architects. Tap, Aston Matthews. Antique mirror, Thurstan. Towel, The Linen Works

STAIRS
The staircase has oiled oak treads, risers and handrail, paired with hand-hammered steel spindles with a brushed brass finish.
Bespoke staircase and pendant light, Nelson Wright Architects. Similar vintage brass jug, Etsy

guarantor. Each house enjoys the same contemporary take on the Victorian stock in the vicinity, earning approval of both the planners and, more importantly, the neighbours. 'Rather crucial when you are living amongst them,' says Alex.

Creating their home was very much a joint enterprise. 'I focused on the strategic stuff and technical design,' says Alex. 'Chelsea's approach was more conceptual.' His warm, minimalist perspective is enhanced by Chelsea's layered and expressive off-white neutral tones, heavy textures and tactile materials. Her 3D visual boards helped the couple firm up decisions on furniture – mainly bespoke or vintage – and on their use of characterful natural materials – wood, steel, marble and brass. Alex is rightly proud of its standout features, such as the exposed ceiling rafters, a triple-height sculptural staircase topped with a roof skylight and its eco credentials, which mean that it's very economical to run.

Despite the challenges of juggling finances and lockdown, which came at the beginning of the build, the couple describe the 14-month-long project, completed in 2021, as 'fun and a true labour of love'. 'And doing it for yourself means you have that freedom to just please yourself,' says Alex. Having had such a good experience, they mean to carry on, with plans to expand their residential portfolio by developing a small block of flats in south London. There certainly is never a dull moment in their lives. ㉕

nelson-wright.com

> 'A large circular skylight floods light all the way down the staircase to the bottom of the house'

STUDY SPACE

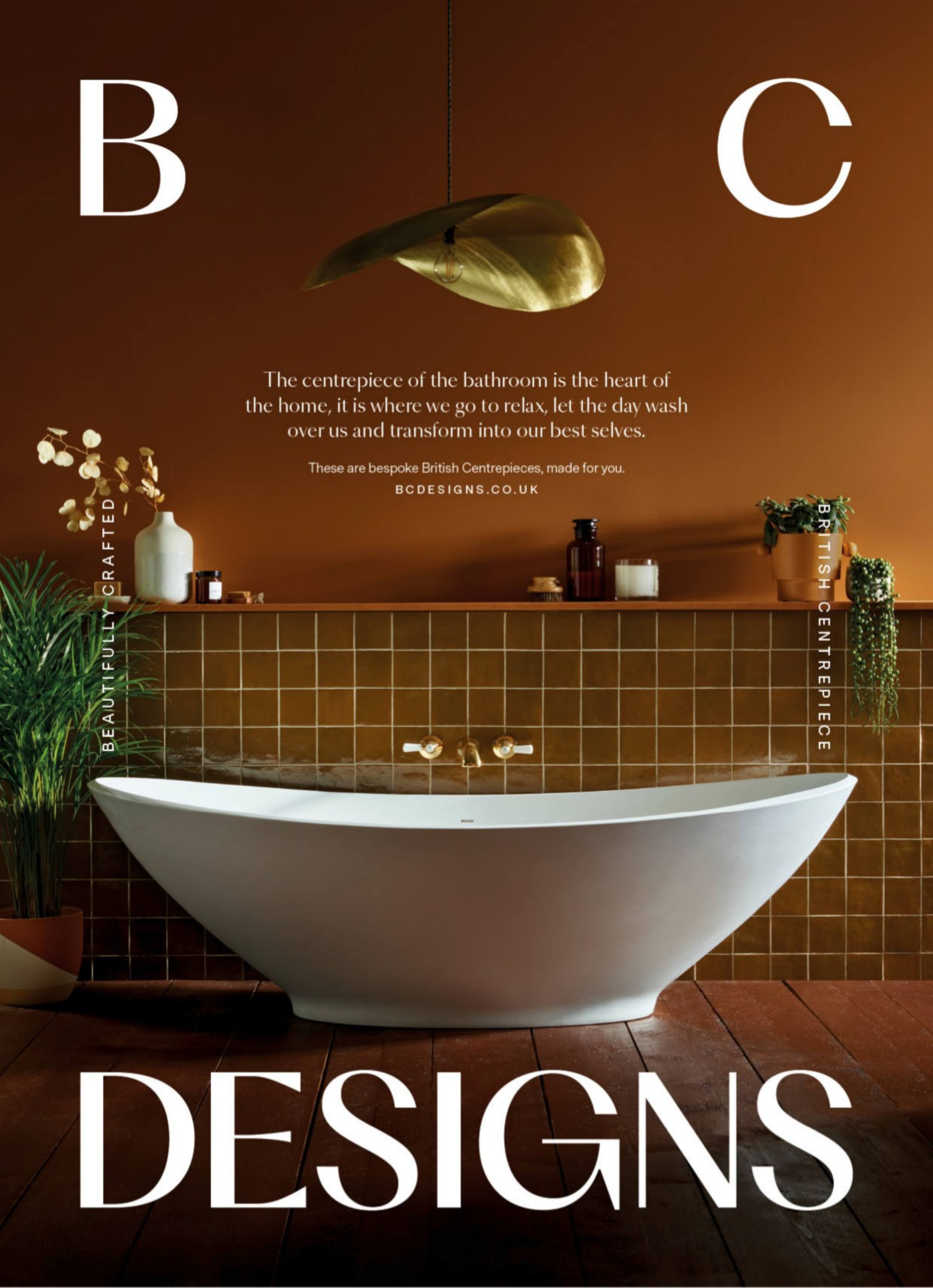
A mini desk area was created as a quiet place to read or work.
Desk, Nelson Wright Architects. 1930s wooden chair by Fritz Hansen, Vinterior. 1950s French desk light, Thurstan

MAIN BEDROOM

Exposing the rafters adds character and creates the illusion of more space.
Ceiling in Pointing, Farrow & Ball. Bed designed by Thurstan. Ceiling light by Nelson Wright. Throw, The British Blanket Company. Artwork by Filipa Tojal. Lamp, Collier Webb

MAIN BATHROOM

Seen in the mirror is the shower, which has a skylight above. 'You feel like you're outside,' says Alex.
Wall tiles, In Situ. Basin and taps, Aston Matthews. Cabinetry, Nelson Wright Architects. Handles, Louis Fraser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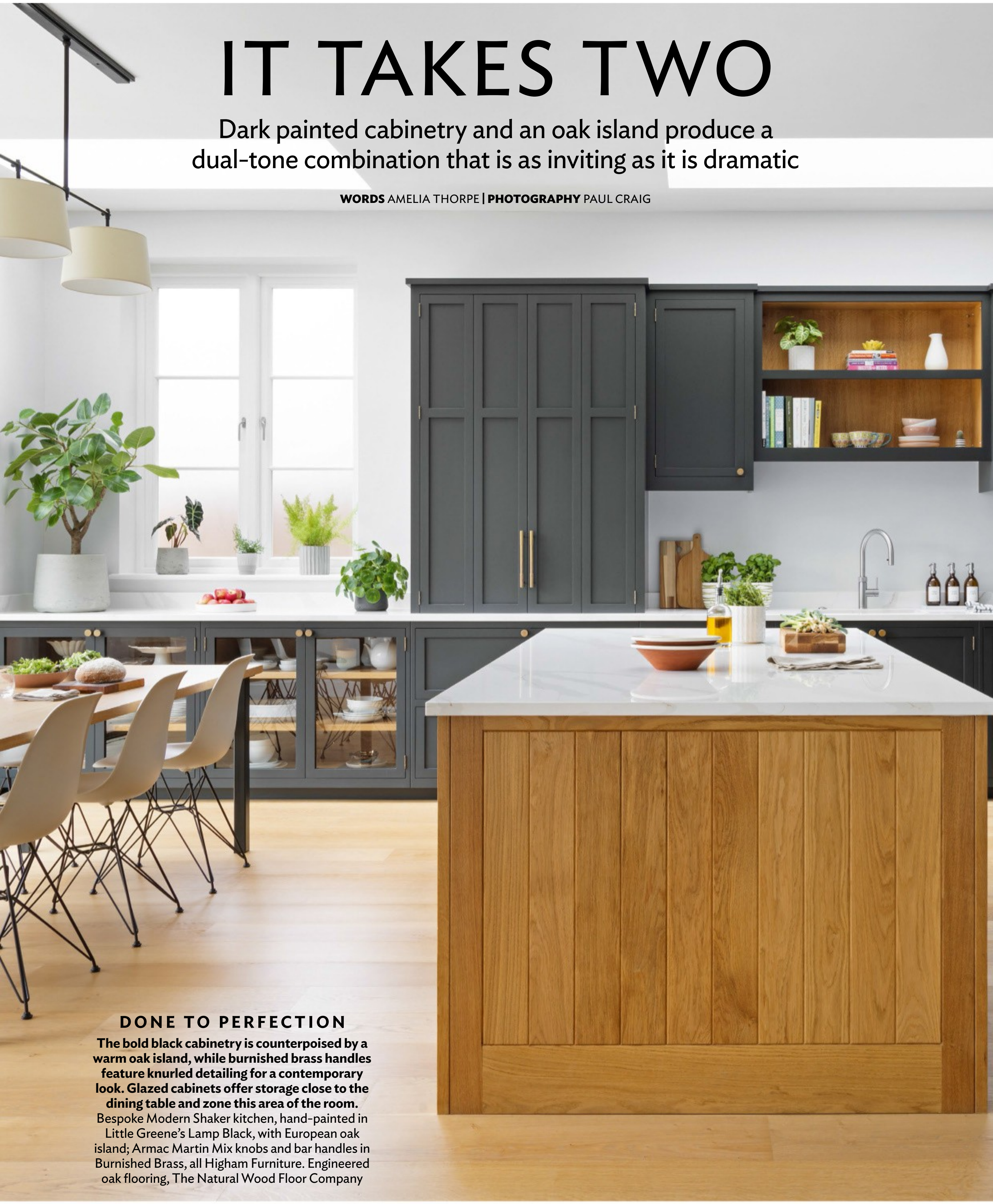


IT TAKES TWO

Dark painted cabinetry and an oak island produce a dual-tone combination that is as inviting as it is dramatic

WORDS AMELIA THORPE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** PAUL CRAIG

DONE TO PERFECTION

The bold black cabinetry is counterpoised by a warm oak island, while burnished brass handles feature knurled detailing for a contemporary look. Glazed cabinets offer storage close to the dining table and zone this area of the room. Bespoke Modern Shaker kitchen, hand-painted in Little Greene's Lamp Black, with European oak island; Armac Martin Mix knobs and bar handles in Burnished Brass, all Higham Furniture. Engineered oak flooring, The Natural Wood Floor Company

PROJECT DETAILS

DESIGNER Tim Higham, founder of Higham Furniture (higham.co.uk)

PROPERTY Semi-detached three-bedroom family house

WORK Extension and new kitchen

LOCATION Southwest London

As part of the update of their 1930s house, the new owners chose to add an extension, doubling the size of the compact kitchen and making room for an open-plan dining area. With the architect's plans in place, they contacted Tim Higham of Higham Furniture to design the new space.

1 THE STARTING POINT

'The homeowners have young children and wanted to create a large family-sized kitchen where they could cook, eat and relax together,' says Tim. 'With the wide sliding glazed doors that provide direct access to the garden, it was clear that the newly extended space would be filled with natural light, so they wanted a design with a large island and lots of impact to make the most of its spacious proportions and feel.'

2 CREATING THE LAYOUT

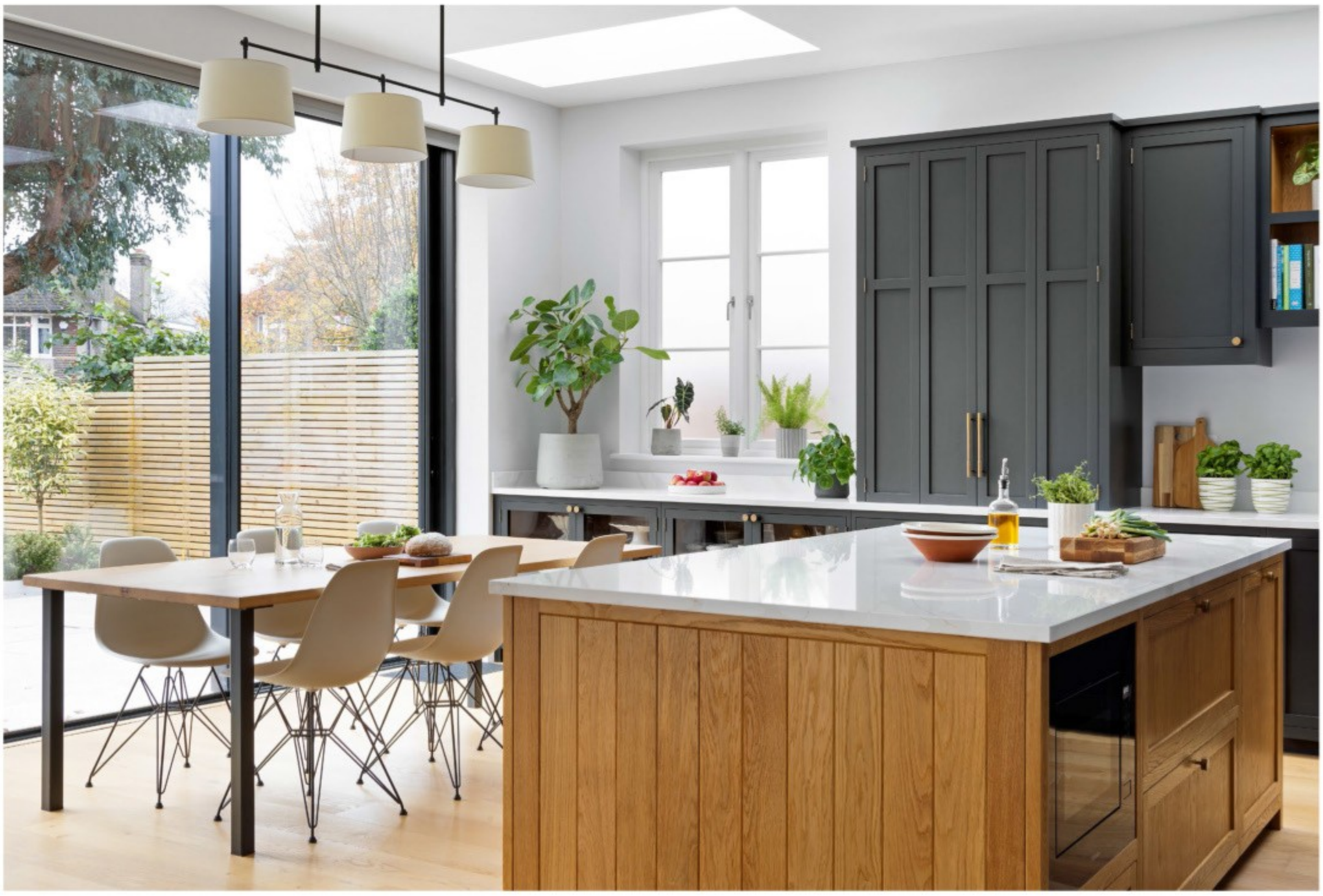
'We begin kitchen layouts by working out where the hob, ovens, fridge and sink are going to go then build from there, developing the design with symmetry and balance in mind,' says Tim. 'Here, it made sense to create a focal point area for the hob, framed in cabinetry, in the middle of the wall with the ovens.' The large island forms the central hub of the room. As the owners didn't want the clutter of a kitchen sink on the island, it was positioned on the other wall, flanked by the fridge and a breakfast cupboard.

3 MIXING THE PALETTE

Keen to blend contemporary style with classic influences, given the age of the house, the owners chose Higham Furniture's Modern Shaker cabinetry, which teams slender lines with traditional craftsmanship. 'It can be tempting to think that only light colours will enhance the spacious feel of a room, but often that ends up looking insipid,' explains Tim. 'Dark colours add depth and drama and can be highly successful and interesting.' Here, the soft off-black perimeter cabinetry is combined with an oak island bringing in warm tones – an effect accentuated by the oak flooring and dining table. Marble-effect quartz worktops introduce fresh contrast, while knurled burnished brass handles add another contemporary touch, completing the materials palette.

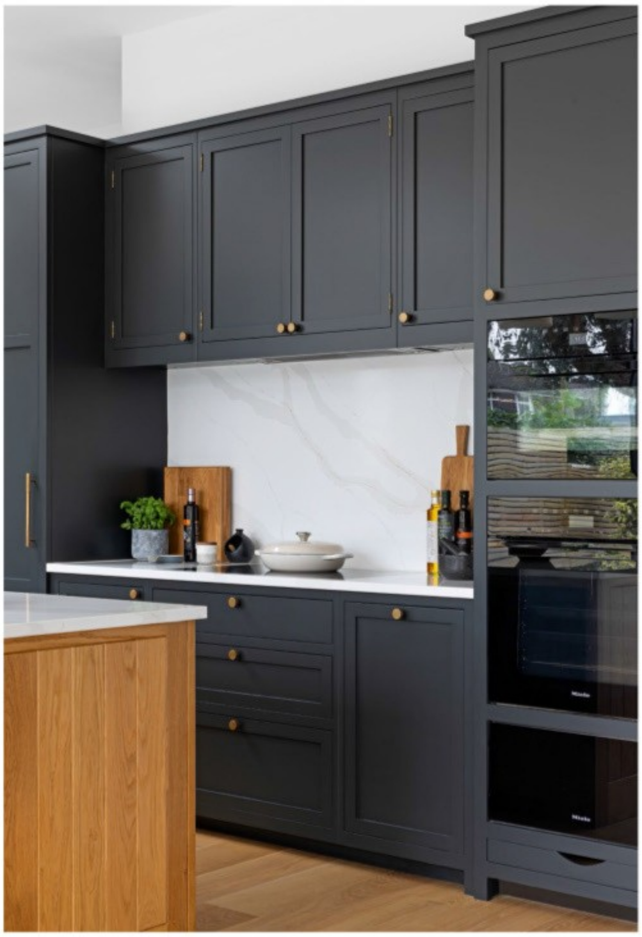
4 SECRETS OF SUCCESS

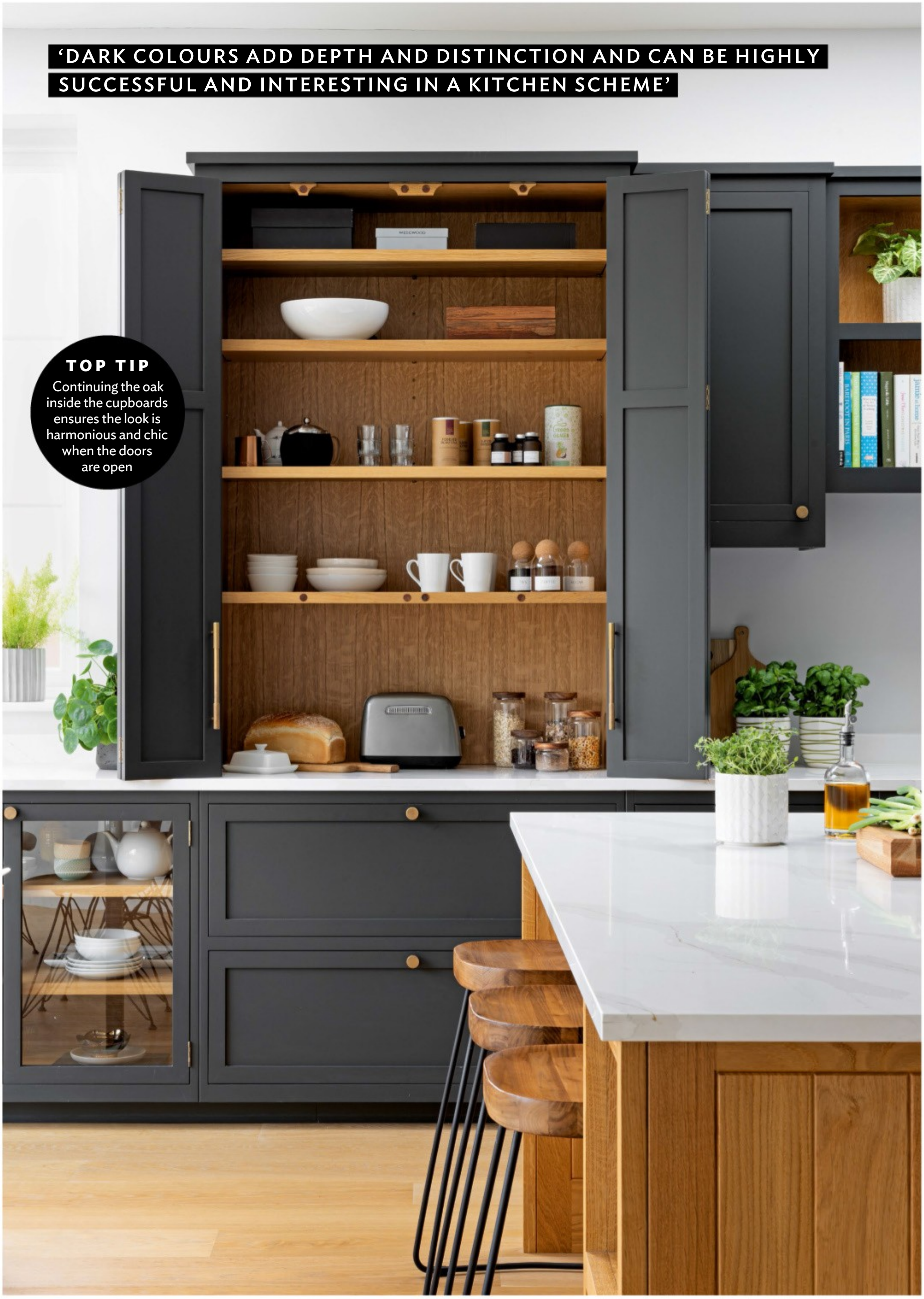
The monochrome scheme is continued throughout the room, extending to the choice of pendant light above the table and the dining chairs. 'The look is strong,' says Tim, 'yet totally balanced – and very inviting.'



POINTS OF VIEW

Topped in durable, scratch- and stain-resistant quartz, the island is the main preparation area in the kitchen. Open shelving on one side softens the look of the piece, seen from the dining table. The table is positioned so that the family and their friends can enjoy the garden views at mealtimes. The breakfast cupboard has bifold doors that open right back to allow unobstructed access to the contents. Calacatta Gold worktops and splashback, Classic Quartz Stone. Single oven, compact combination steam oven, warming drawer, combination microwave, induction hob, integrated dishwasher, all Miele. Built-in extractor, Westin. Fridge freezer, Fisher & Paykel. Wine fridge, Caple. Boiling water and mixer tap, Quooker. Undermounted sink, Franke. Bryant Large Billiard pendant light in Bronze, Visual Comfort & Co. Custom dining table, Rag & Byrne. Eames DSR chairs, Vitra. Victoria metal stools, Cult Furniture





‘DARK COLOURS ADD DEPTH AND DISTINCTION AND CAN BE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL AND INTERESTING IN A KITCHEN SCHEME’

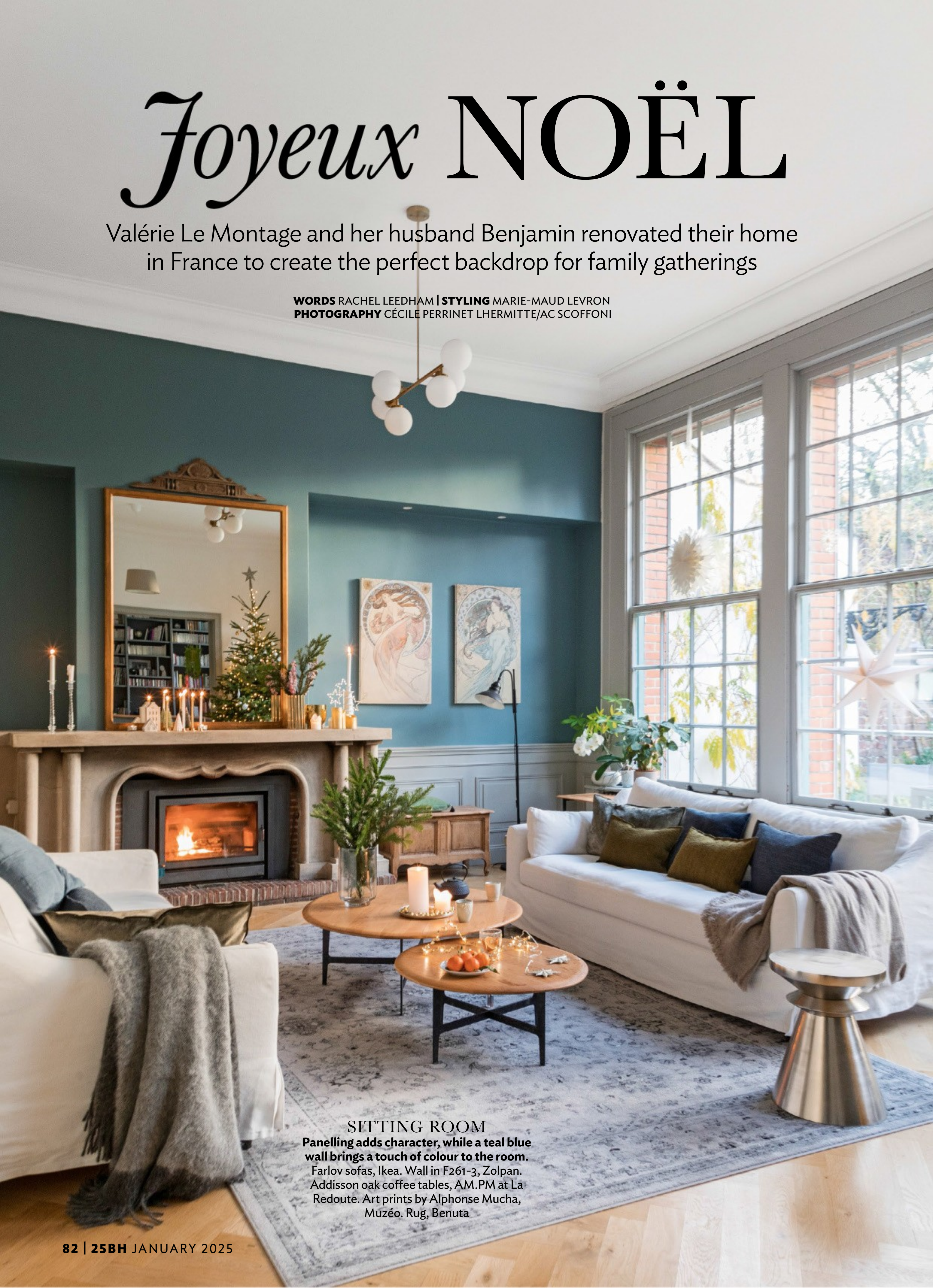
TOP TIP

Continuing the oak inside the cupboards ensures the look is harmonious and chic when the doors are open

Joyeux NOËL

Valérie Le Montage and her husband Benjamin renovated their home in France to create the perfect backdrop for family gatherings

WORDS RACHEL LEEDHAM | **STYLING** MARIE-MAUD LEVRON
PHOTOGRAPHY CÉCILE PERRINET LHERMITTE/AC SCOFFONI



SITTING ROOM
Panelling adds character, while a teal blue wall brings a touch of colour to the room. Farlov sofas, Ikea. Wall in F261-3, Zolpan. Addisson oak coffee tables, AM.PM at La Redoute. Art prints by Alphonse Mucha, Muzéo. Rug, Benuta

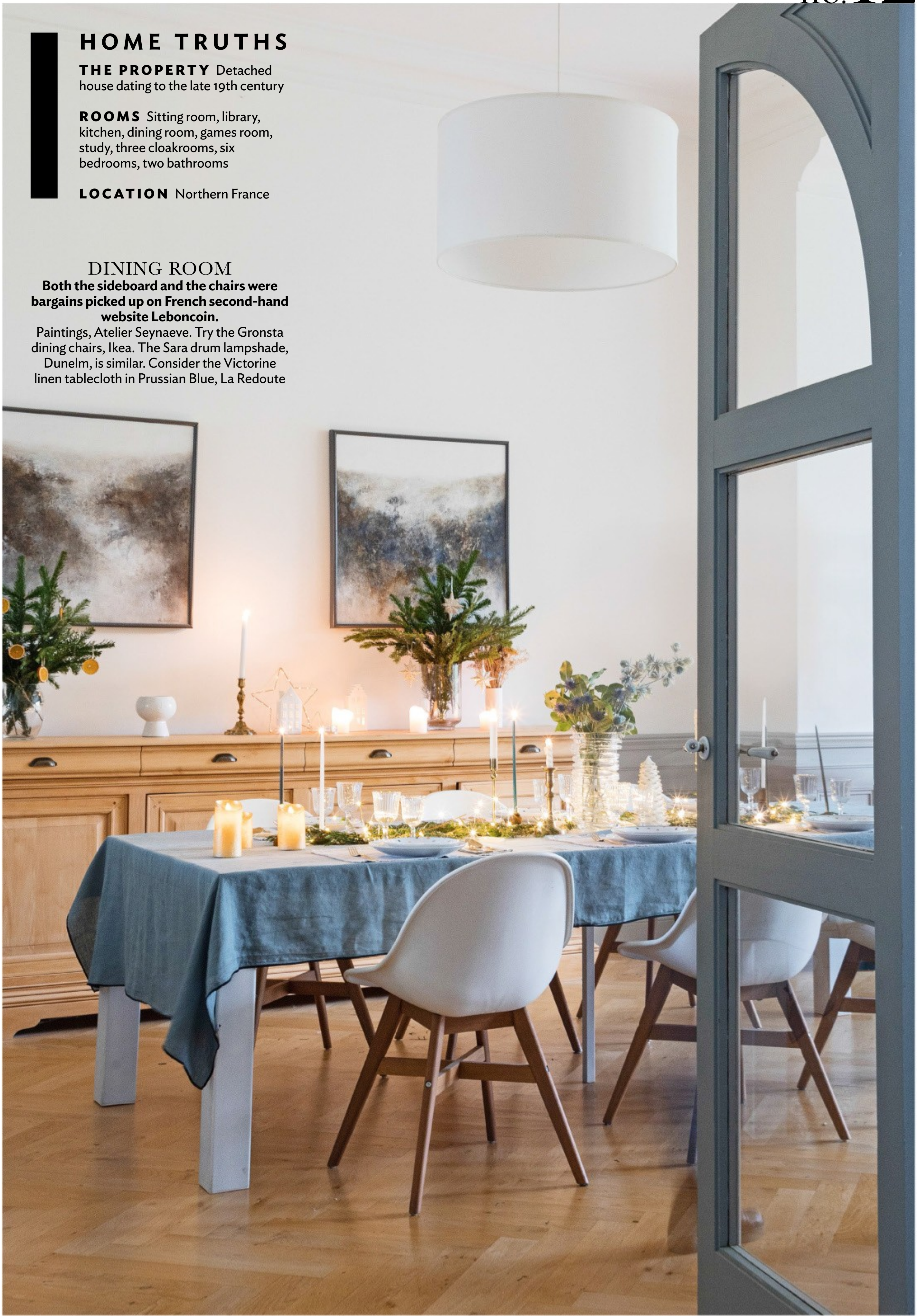
no.12

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Detached house dating to the late 19th century

ROOMS Sitting room, library, kitchen, dining room, games room, study, three cloakrooms, six bedrooms, two bathrooms

LOCATION Northern France



DINING ROOM

Both the sideboard and the chairs were bargains picked up on French second-hand website Leboncoin.

Paintings, Atelier Seynaeve. Try the Gronsta dining chairs, Ikea. The Sara drum lampshade, Dunelm, is similar. Consider the Victorine linen tablecloth in Prussian Blue, La Redoute

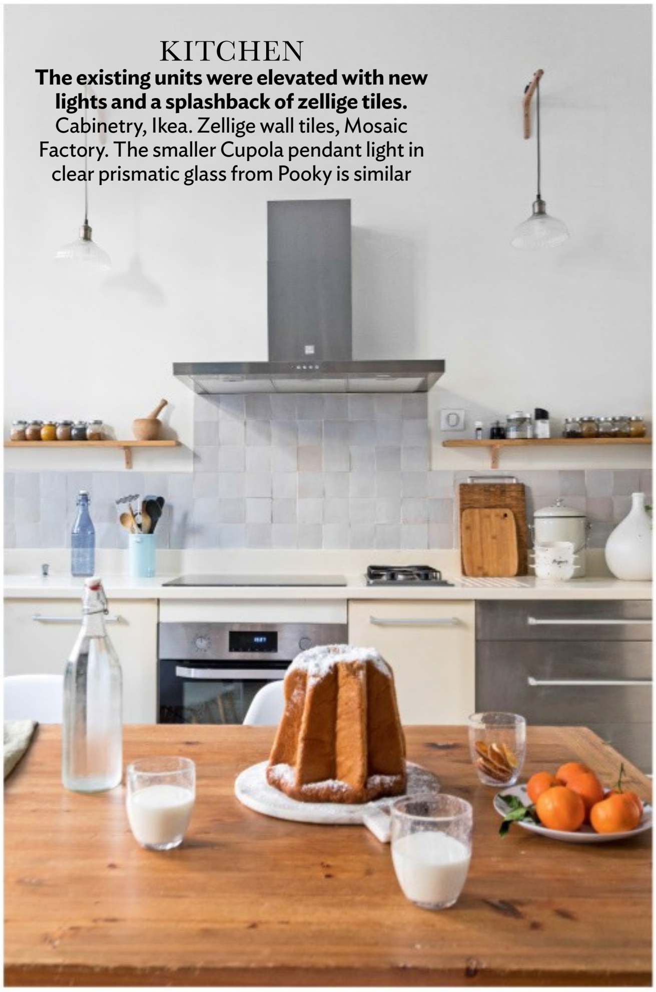
WHAT DREW YOU TO THIS HOUSE? I have vivid memories of childhood holidays at my cousins' manor house, with its high ceilings, grand staircases and secret nooks and crannies. I had always envisaged our three young children growing up in a place like that, and when we viewed this late 19th-century house near Lille, we immediately felt it was right. It's a large house, but easy to live in, and it has the advantage of a wonderful garden.

DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE. Having grown up in a house full of antiques, I like to use antiques and vintage finds, mixing them with contemporary designs.

WHAT WERE YOUR MAIN PRIORITIES? Between the 1930s and 1960s, the house had been extensively renovated: the ground floor was made much more open plan and an extension was added along the rear facade. It was unusual to open up interiors so much at this time but the family who lived here had 11 children which perhaps explains the need to create more space! We wanted to celebrate this layout, while reintegrating details that are sympathetic to the era of the building, such as panelling and parquet floors.

WHAT WAS YOUR INSPIRATION FOR THE SCHEMES? Definitely the house's history. Sadly, we weren't able to salvage the ground floor parquet flooring or the entrance's chequerboard tiles so we replaced these with new oak parquet and cement tiles. Upstairs, we removed carpet glued to the floor to reveal the original floorboards, which we restored. The new panelling gives added character to these large spaces.

WHICH ROOM WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT? The sitting room and adjoining library are both part of the extension that was added in the 1950s and they have wonderful 2.8-metre-high windows that flood the spaces with light. We wanted to create a soothing scheme that helped connect the house with the garden.



KITCHEN

The existing units were elevated with new lights and a splashback of zellige tiles. Cabinetry, Ikea. Zellige wall tiles, Mosaic Factory. The smaller Cupola pendant light in clear prismatic glass from Pooky is similar

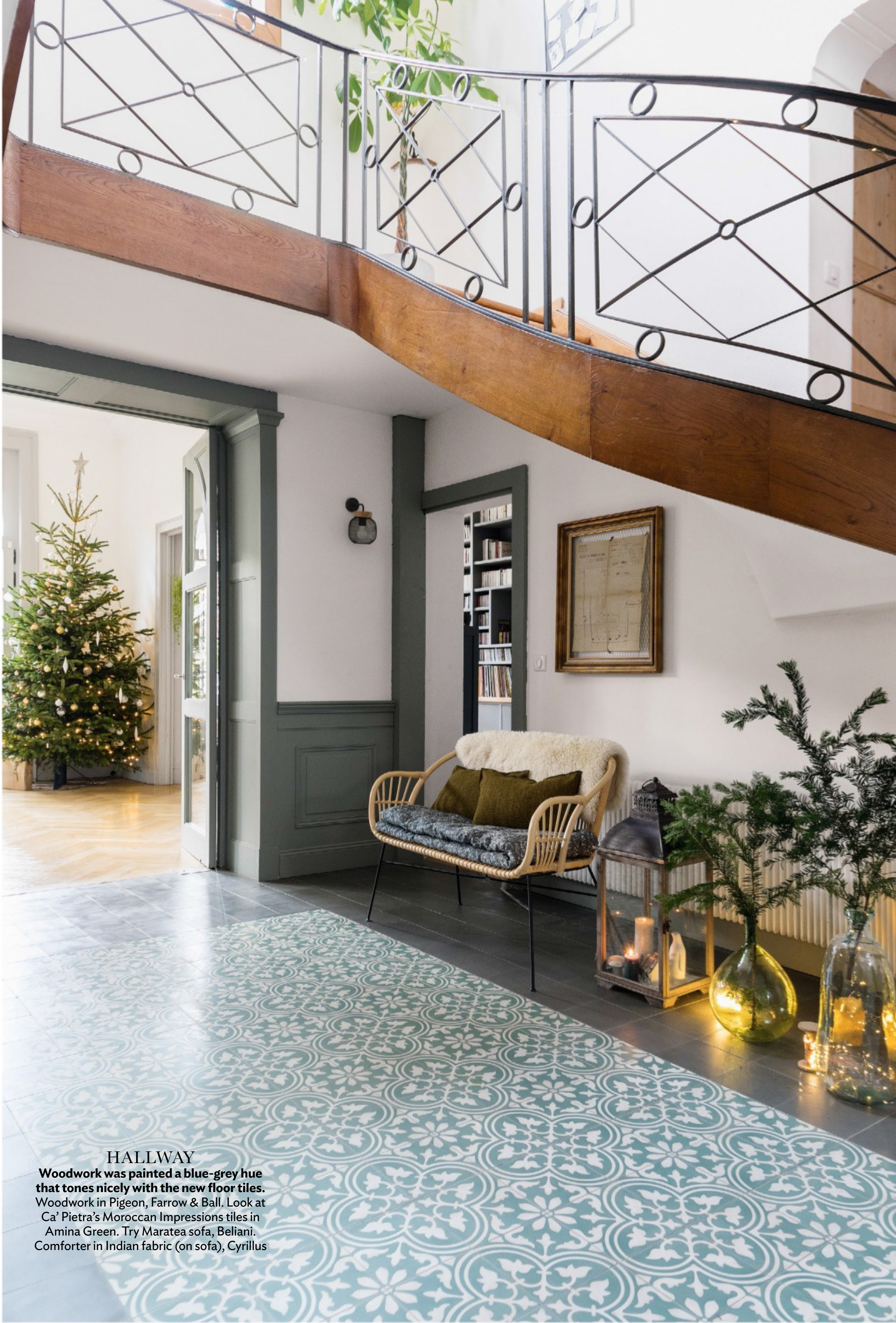
> 'I'm a big fan of sourcing items of furniture on second-hand websites – sometimes all a piece needs is a lick of paint to completely reinvent it'

HOW DID YOU CHOOSE THE COLOUR PALETTE? I was influenced by colours used in English country houses – soft, subdued blues, greens and greys that help bring the outdoors inside.

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE? I completely redesigned the en-suite bathroom to incorporate a dressing area, free-standing bathtub, double vanity and a large walk-in shower. It took quite a few attempts to plan it, but it is now exactly what we wanted.

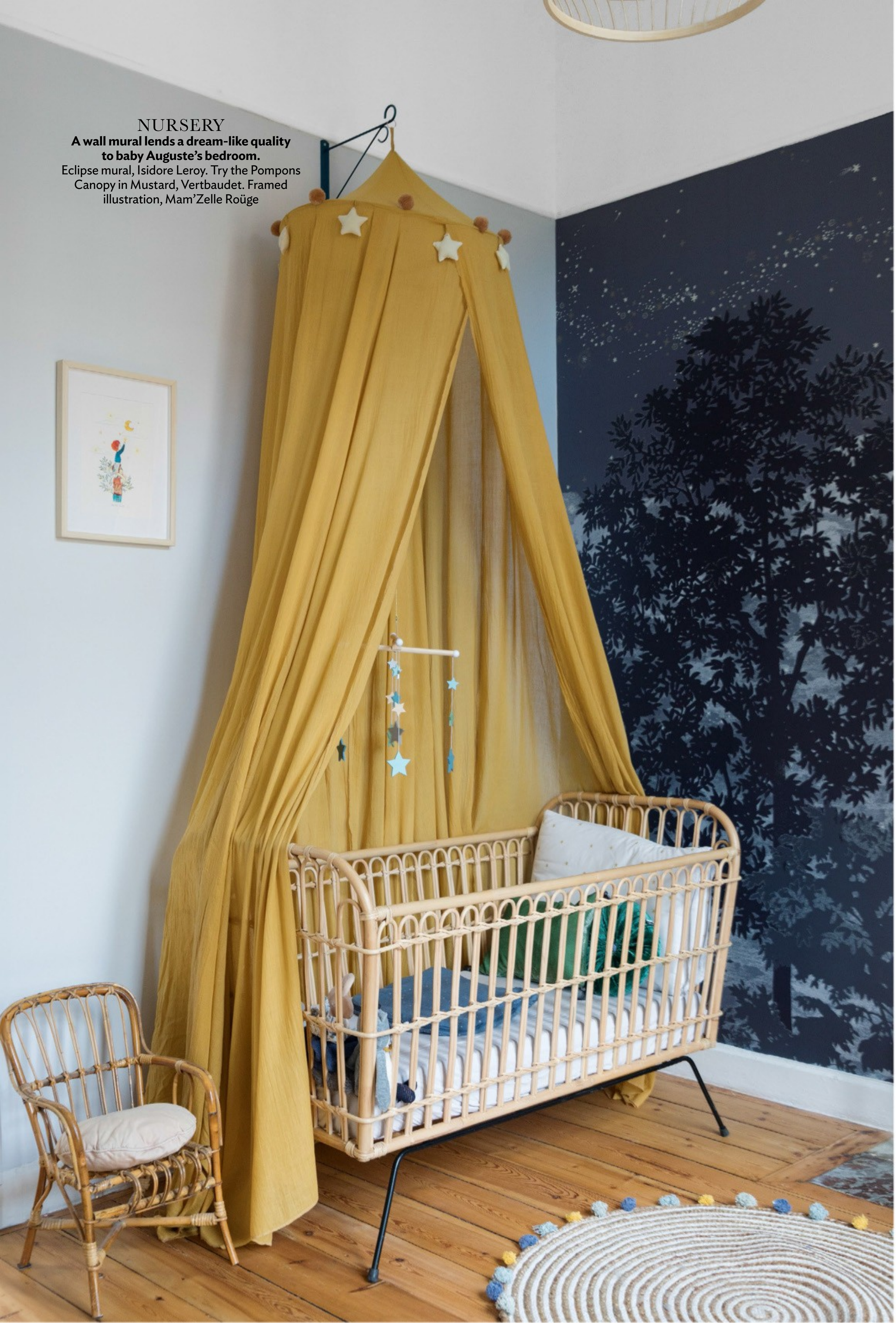
WHAT WAS THE MOST SATISFYING ASPECT OF THIS PROJECT? It is lovely to host big family dinners in the house, knowing that so many families before us have done exactly the same.

CAN YOU OFFER SOME FESTIVE DECORATING TIPS? I use lots of fresh foliage, fairy lights and candles, and for the decorations, I like to keep to a limited colour palette of white, silver and gold – this way I can keep adding to the collection year after year.



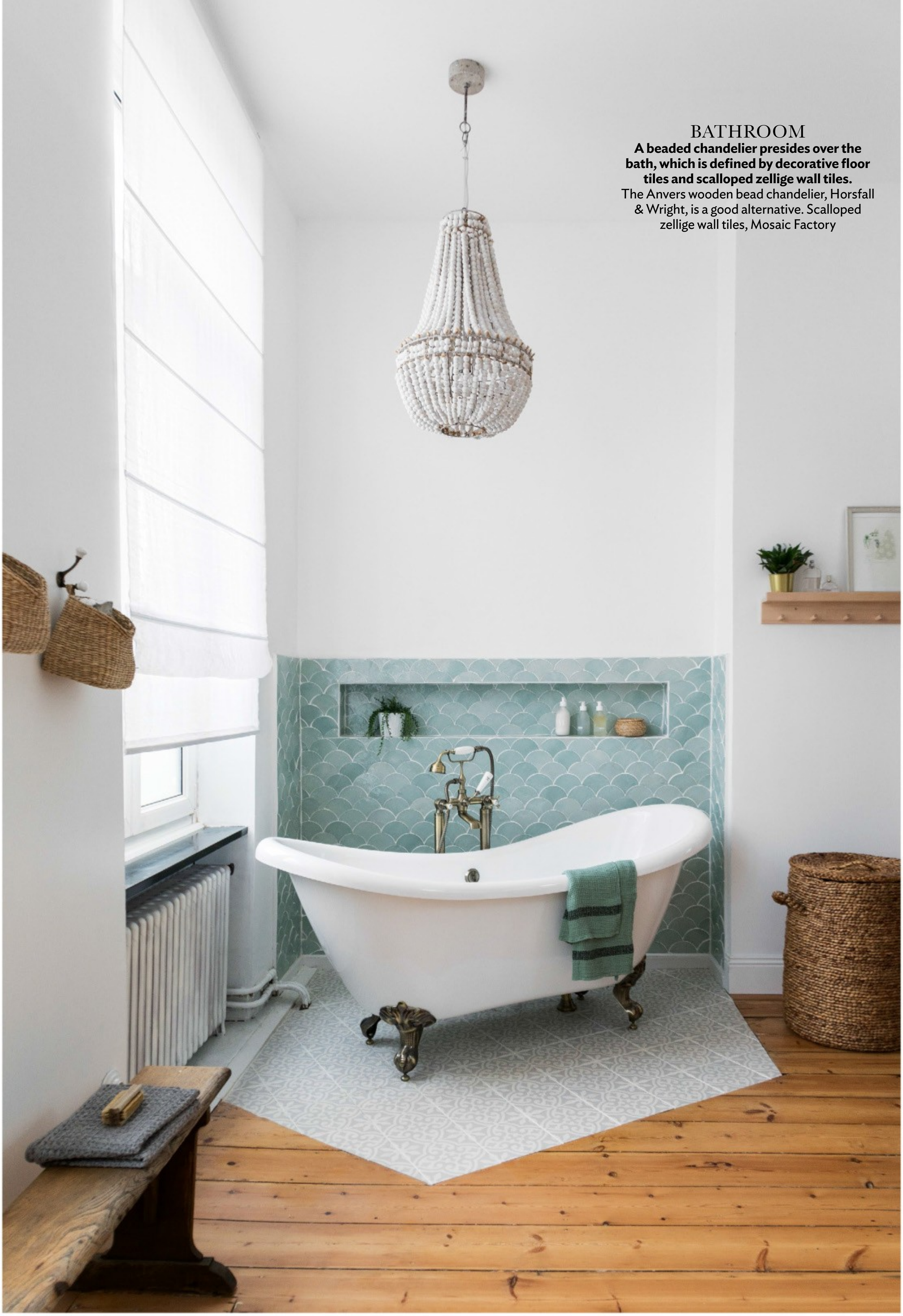
HALLWAY

Woodwork was painted a blue-grey hue that tones nicely with the new floor tiles. Woodwork in Pigeon, Farrow & Ball. Look at Ca' Pietra's Moroccan Impressions tiles in Amina Green. Try Maratea sofa, Beliani. Comforter in Indian fabric (on sofa), Cyrillus



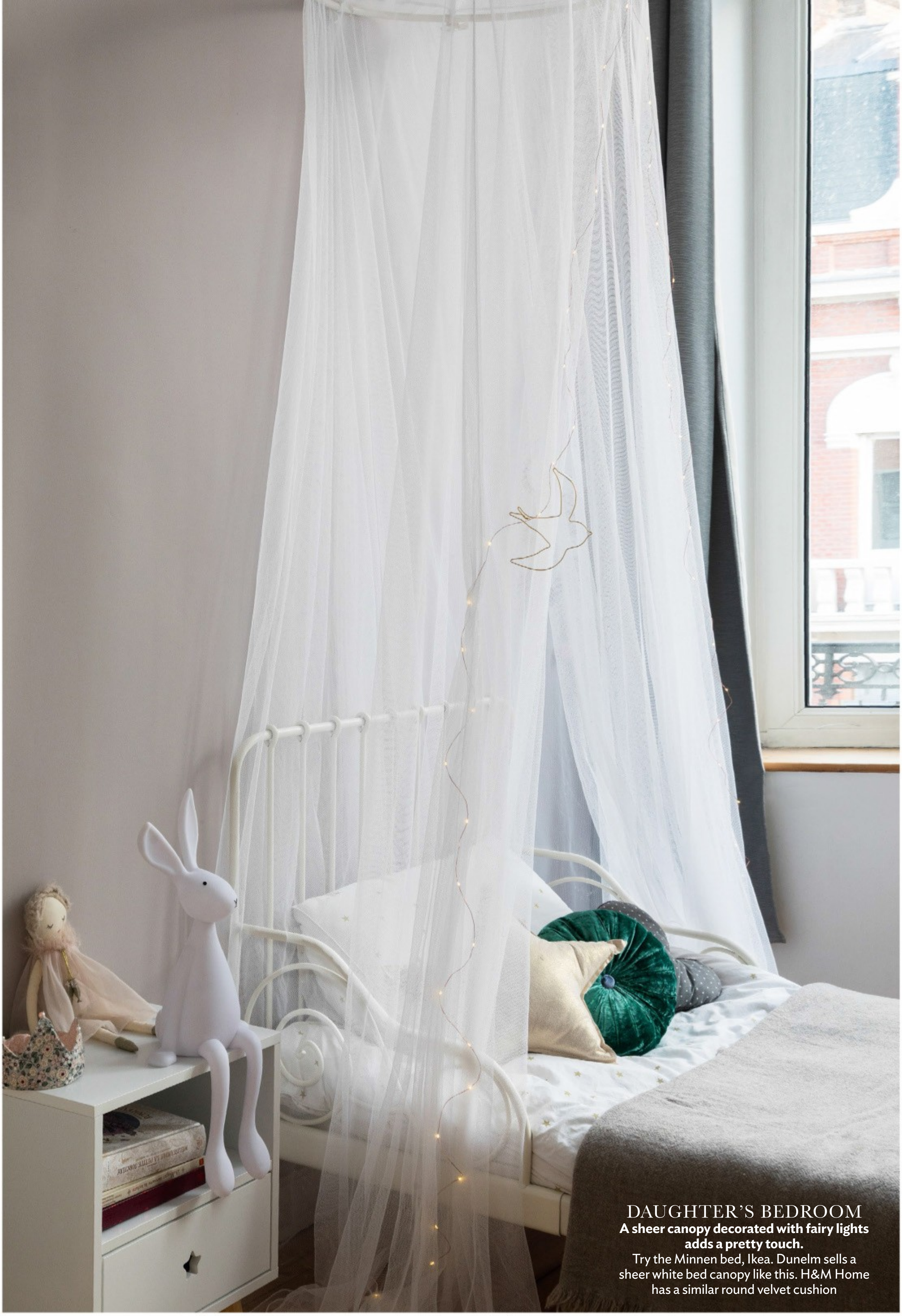
NURSERY

A wall mural lends a dream-like quality to baby Auguste's bedroom. Eclipse mural, Isidore Leroy. Try the Pompons Canopy in Mustard, Vertbaudet. Framed illustration, Mam'Zelle Roüge



BATHROOM

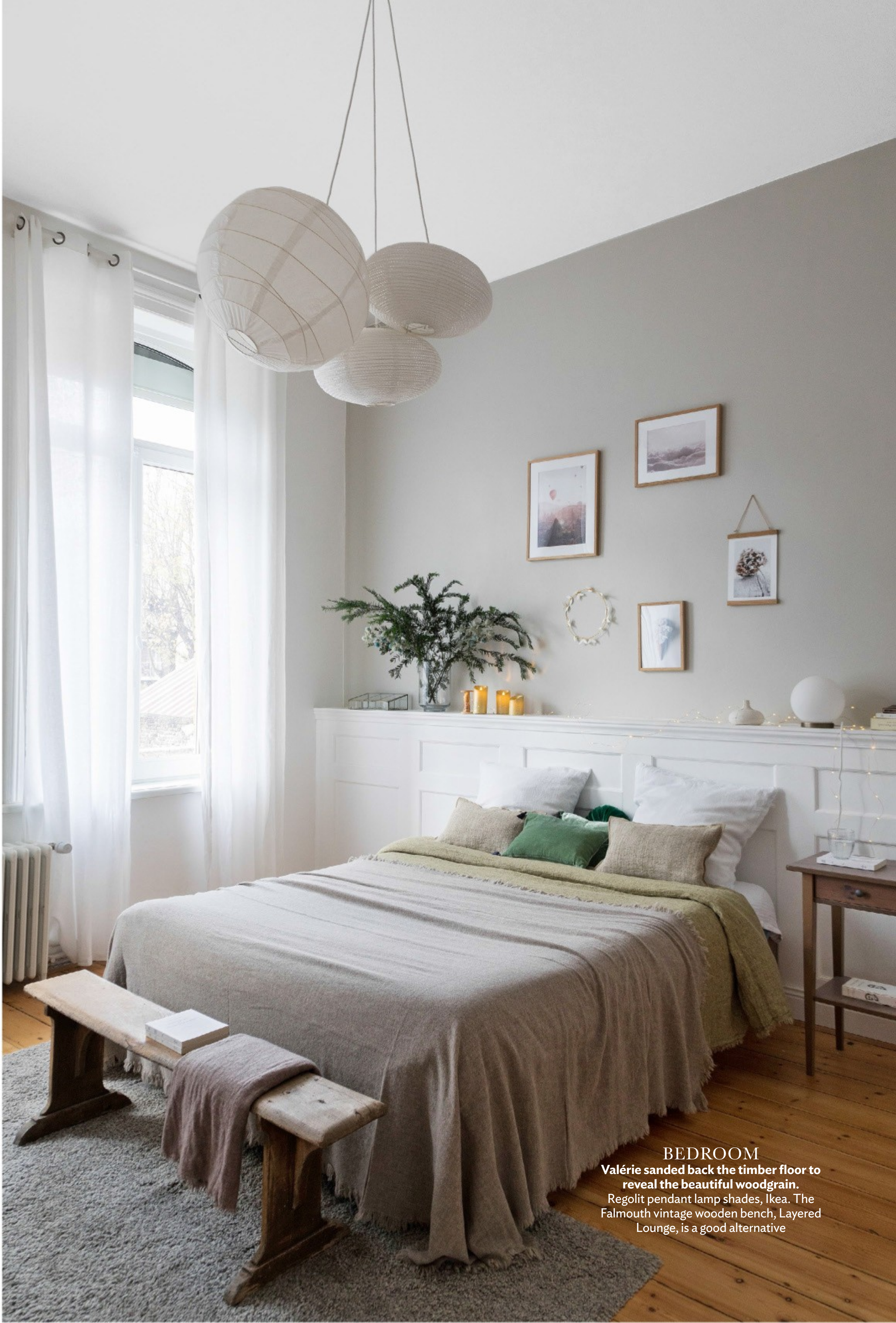
A beaded chandelier presides over the bath, which is defined by decorative floor tiles and scalloped zellige wall tiles. The Anvers wooden bead chandelier, Horsfall & Wright, is a good alternative. Scalloped zellige wall tiles, Mosaic Factory



DAUGHTER'S BEDROOM

A sheer canopy decorated with fairy lights adds a pretty touch.

Try the Minnen bed, Ikea. Dunelm sells a sheer white bed canopy like this. H&M Home has a similar round velvet cushion

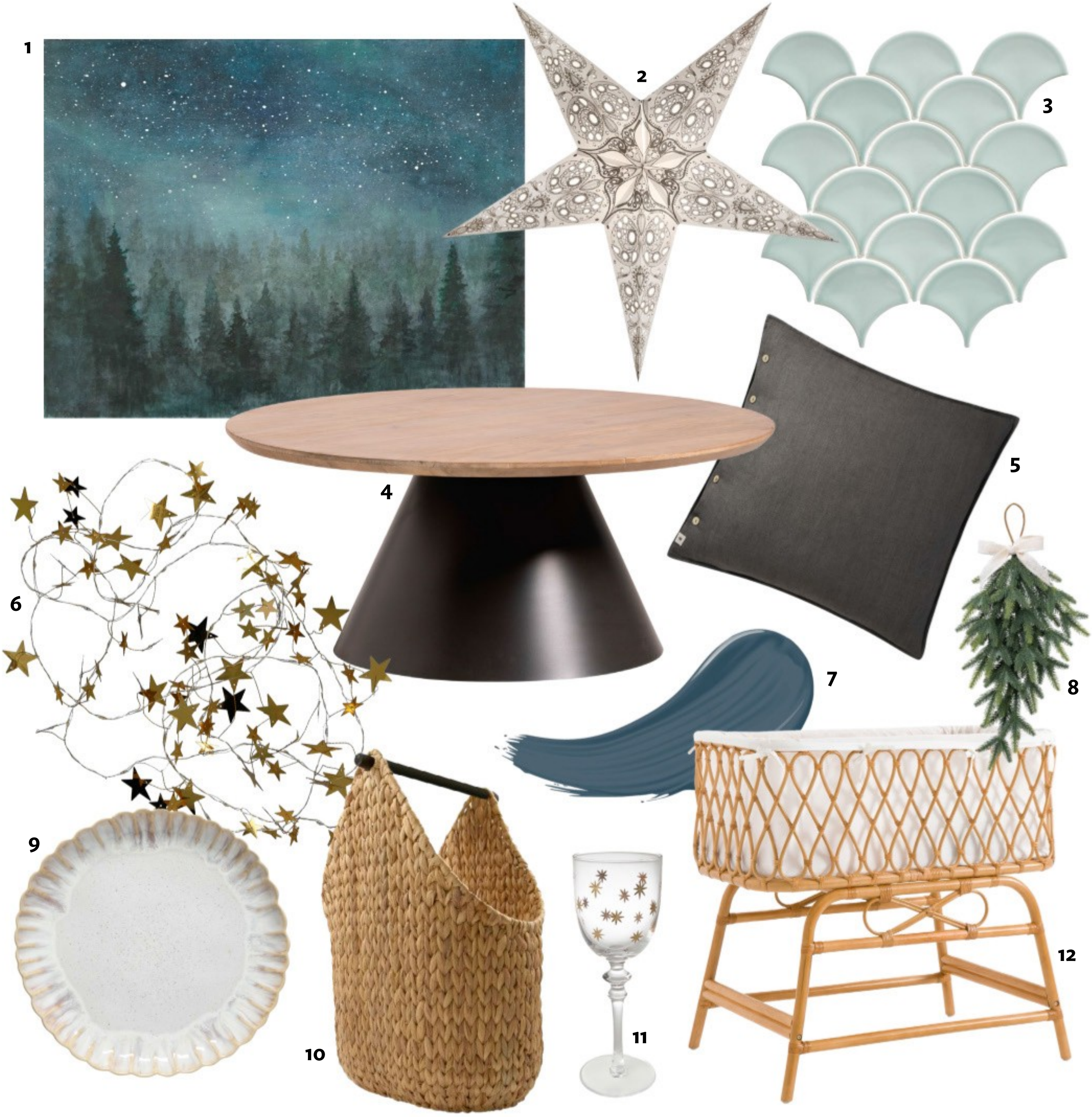


BEDROOM

Valérie sanded back the timber floor to reveal the beautiful woodgrain. Regolit pendant lamp shades, Ikea. The Falmouth vintage wooden bench, Layered Lounge, is a good alternative

STYLE *inspiration*

Dip into Valérie's elegant aesthetic with atmospheric night-sky tones, natural textures and luxe finishes



1 Clearest Night wallpaper, £34sq m, Wallism **2** Lace star lantern, £16.95, Paper Starlights **3** Gelato porcelain mosaic in Mint, £12.50 per sheet, Ca' Pietra **4** Duke coffee table, £359, Where Saints Go **5** Jumbo Easy Squish scatter cushion, £49, Loaf **6** Metal stars lights garland in Gold, £12.99, Gisela Graham **7** Payne's Grey chalky emulsion, £45 for 2.5ltr, Craig & Rose **8** Natural pine swag with hessian bow, £8, Habitat **9** Mallorca dinner plate in Sand Beige, £18, Rose & Grey **10** Water hyacinth storage basket, £75, Cox & Cox **11** Etched star wine glass, £10, John Lewis & Partners **12** Lorene bassinet, £425, La Redoute

FEATURE HOLLY PHILLIPS

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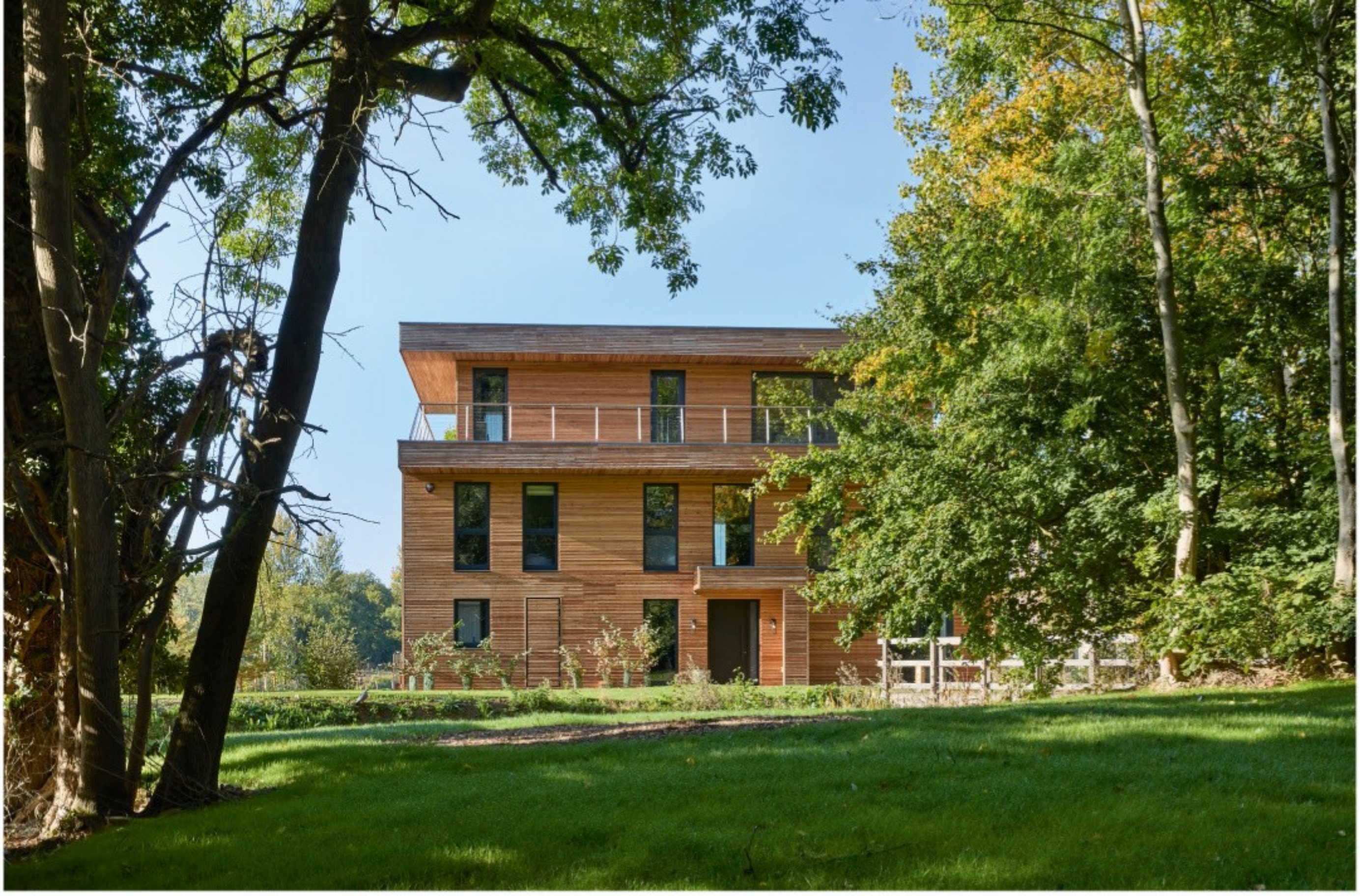
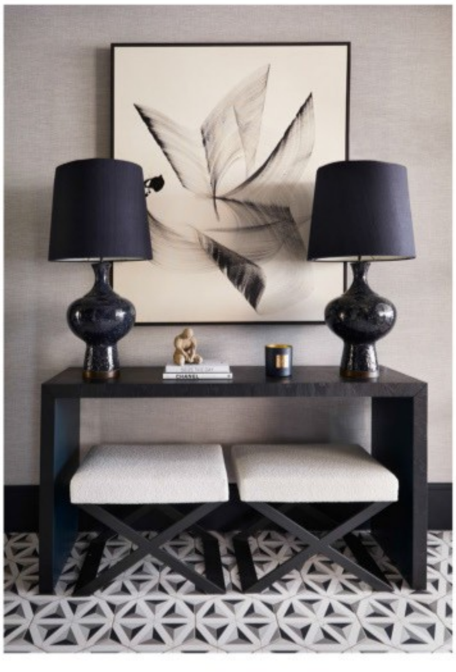


It’s warm inside

Manuela Hamilford oversaw the build and design of this stunning Cotswolds home that has very cosy – and very chic – Scandi-inspired interiors

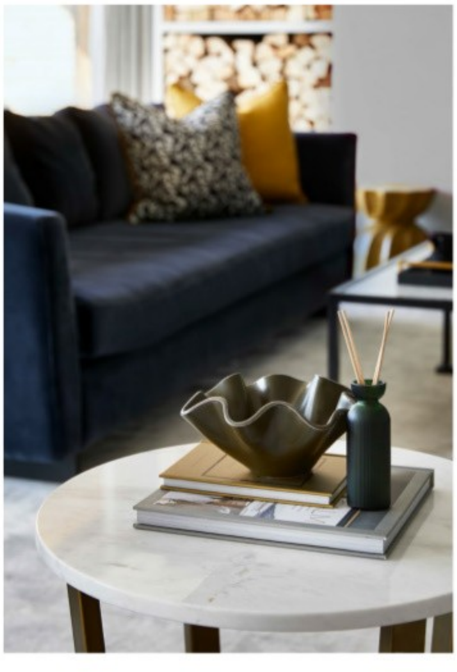
WORDS RUTH CORBETT | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DARREN CHUNG



EXTERIOR
The new-build house is clad in beautifully grained Siberian larch, helping it blend into its picturesque natural surroundings

HALLWAY
Mosaic hexagon floor tiles in a striking monochrome colourway lift the entrance space and lead the eye through to the living area and outdoor terrace beyond. A bold black console table featuring a pair of sculptural lamps and two stools beneath creates an eye-catching focal point. Herringbone tiles, Fired Earth. Table lamps, Porta Romana

SITTING ROOM
A deep blue velvet sofa is decorated with graphic and mustard cushions for a smart colour pop. Bespoke wrought-iron shelving with wooden accents displays a curated selection of books and ceramics. Similar blue velvet sofa, Darlings of Chelsea. Find a side table like this at La Redoute



THIS IS HOME
ATLAS OF MID-CENTURY MODERN HOUSES
DREAMS
SEIZE THE DAY
AFFINITIES
WORLD ARCHITECTURE
THE MASTERWORKS
Minimalista
BEAUTÉ
THE VATICAN
MOTHER
A Life on Our Planet
David Attenborough
KELLY HOPPEN DESIGN MASTERCLASS
EAT DRINK MAP
PRETTY CITY NEW YORK

no. 13

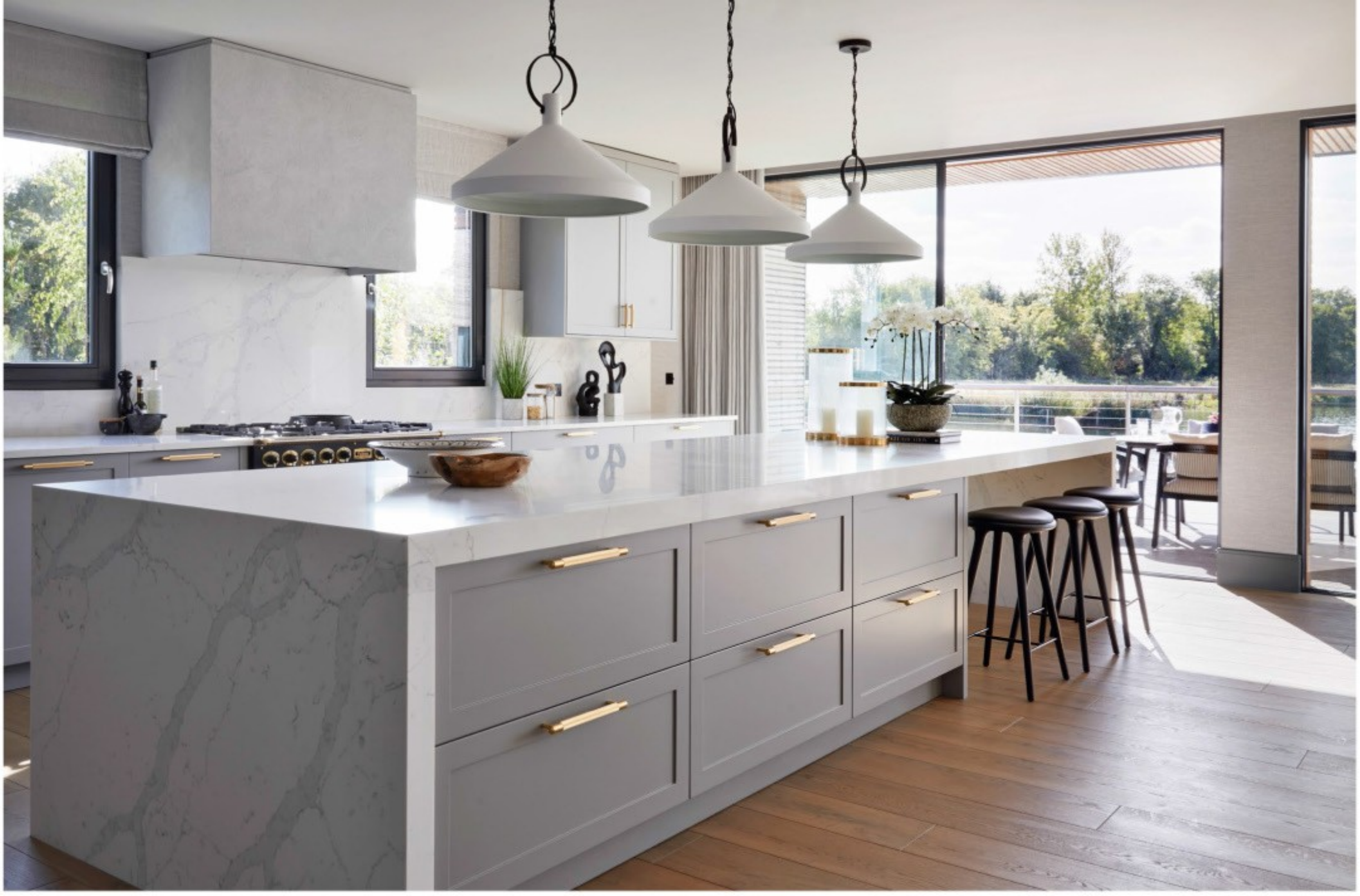
HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
A new-build property

ROOMS Dining/kitchen/sitting room, snug, four bedrooms, four bathrooms, games room and bar

LOCATION Cotswolds

‘INTERNAL GLAZING ALLOWS LIGHT TO FLOW FROM ONE LIVING SPACE TO ANOTHER’



HOW DID YOU COME TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT? I was referred by another client, whose London house I had worked on. She thought I'd be a good fit for this project, and happily, the owners agreed.

HOW INVOLVED WERE THE HOMEOWNERS? The clients left it to us to make decisions, with a few tweaks here and there. They came in close to the end, and signed off on everything, which is a lovely compliment to us as designers.

DESCRIBE YOUR/THE HOMEOWNERS' STYLE. She's Danish and he's Australian, so we decided to go with a Scandinavian flavour, and included lots of clean lines in the design. We set everything against a calming colour palette of greys, blacks and blues, injected with occasional jewel tones to mirror the outside natural elements of earth, sky and water. The owners favour simplicity, functionality and lots of bespoke cabinetry for a visually clutter-free feel.

WHAT WERE THE BIGGEST PRIORITIES FOR THE HOMEOWNERS? Entertaining is hugely important, so the kitchen, with its inclusive, brasserie style, works brilliantly. There's lots of natural light, and it was important to maximise those lovely lake views with huge sliding glass doors opening to the outside terrace.

WHICH ROOM WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT TO THE HOMEOWNERS? Definitely the

DINING ROOM
This area has an open and informal yet glamorous feel, with a statement crystal chandelier adding a sense of grandeur and drama against the natural rattan and wood finishes. Arctic Pear chandelier, Ochre. Table lamps, Heathfield & Co. Larvik Natural Wishbone dining chairs, Housing Units

KITCHEN
The focal point here is a showstopping four-metre-long island unit, which is perfect for entertaining friends and family when they visit. Materials, including wood and stone, reflect the home's beautiful natural surroundings. Kitchen by Mowlem & Co. Bar stools, Nest. Pendant lights, Visual Comfort & Co. Flooring, Ecohardwood

TERRACE
Guests can head out here to take in the tranquil lakeside views and enjoy alfresco drinks and dinner when the weather is fine

GAMES ROOM
This top-floor area comes complete with pool table and bespoke bar area, providing a fun hangout place. Find a pool table at Home Games Room

kitchen. It's a very social space with a wine room just off it. We built a four-metre island for it; the biggest we've ever done! It's perfect for having cocktails around, there's plenty of storage within it, and it's a great place to gather for casual dining.

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE? It's vital to think about the big pieces getting to the right room at the right time. The addition of a pool table was a late decision, so it had to be hoisted into place on the top floor by crane! The same applied for one of the fireplaces, but thankfully, there are so many huge windows to get things through, neither was a problem.

WHAT WAS THE MOST SATISFYING ASPECT OF THIS PROJECT? It's a big house, and big houses can be difficult to make cosy. The Danish-inspired colour scheme of blues, greens and greys can be quite cold, and so the challenge was to make it feel warm. I'm really pleased with how we managed this with lots of layering and textures. By using massive sofas, outsize lamps, big pieces of furniture, but fewer of them, we've achieved a cohesive, cosy look.

WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE FOR CREATING A SUCCESSFUL SCHEME? Don't follow trends. Look at the location, think about how your clients like to live, consider what suits them. It's all well and good designing something super-bold, but if they want tranquillity and reflection, you haven't delivered. ㉕

hamilforddesign.com

MAIN BEDROOM
A seating area has been incorporated here to make the most of the lake views. 'It's a room to be in and enjoy, not just to sleep in,' explains Manuela. Bespoke bed, Hamilford Design. Fabrics, Romo and C&C Milano

BATHROOM
Double washbasins and matching mirrors add a nice sense of symmetry and proportion here. Similar marble wall tiles, Fired Earth. Robinson pendant lights, Visual Comfort & Co. Washbasins, Such Designs

BEDROOM
A contemporary four-poster bed and textured wallcovering create a luxurious feel. Bespoke bed, Hamilford Design. Bedside table, Andrew Martin

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Natural BEAUTY

The architecture and spirit of Steve Ackhurst and Bronwen Malcolm's self-build home is intricately tied to the landscape it was built on

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Newly built detached house

ROOMS Sitting room/dining area, kitchen, four bedrooms, two bathrooms, basement swimming pool

LOCATION West Sussex

WORDS ATLANTA BARTLETT AND DAVID COOTE
PHOTOGRAPHY POLLY WREFORD

The first thing that strikes you on entering the beautiful home of Steve Ackhurst, a producer and screenwriter, and Bronwen Malcolm, an artist, is an overwhelming sense of peace and tranquillity. This is an architect-designed house with impressive eco credentials and a softness at its heart. Split over three floors, the design is an open-plan arrangement that allows light to flow through the property from all four sides of the building. A few iconic pieces of furniture pepper the concrete floors, which are sparse enough to retain the minimalist aesthetic, but just enough to feel comfortable and homely. It is, after all, a family home.

The overall effect is a soft blond colour that is gentle and soothing. Poured concrete floors have a little shimmer, which reflects the light and complements the warmth of the wood walls and ceilings. Everywhere you look, the beautiful surrounding countryside is framed by spectacular picture windows – almost like giant Constable paintings – making the landscape an integral part of the living spaces. The effect is both beautiful and romantic, while remaining very contemporary.

As the son of an architect, Steve had always dreamed of building his own home and it took the couple 18 months to find the perfect plot. When they finally stumbled across the land, they put in their offer on the spot, as they knew instantly it was what they wanted. Right from the start they both had a tick list of criteria that needed to be met in the completed design: 'Large and airy spaces. High ceilings on the top floor, and storage. You can never have too much,' says Bronwen. 'We had storyboards and masses of visual imagery based on other buildings we liked. The more we looked at what we thought we wanted, the more the brief changed to what we have now. The most poignant image for the house was a simple wood-clad boathouse that sat on a lake. We wanted a simplicity and honesty to the materials.'

Both Steve and Bronwen now say that they are so grateful they took the time to think and rethink every detail of how they like to live, so that the finished house would suit their future perfectly. The simple

SITTING ROOM
Seamless wood cladding and poured concrete floors create a soothing and peaceful experience. A discreet ladder leads to a secret bedroom in the eaves, provided as extra guest space. Try the Akari pendant, Heal's. Sofa, B&B Italia. Find a similar Charles and Ray Eames lounge chair and ottoman at Vinterior. Wood-burning stove, Dik Geurts. The log basket is made from recycled tyres; find similar at Henderson's

KITCHEN
The open-plan kitchen has a relaxed, homely charm, thanks to the open shelves that display Steve and Bronwen's extensive collection of recipe books and kitchen paraphernalia. Bespoke kitchen, Matthew Smith

DINING AREA
The large oak dining table, which seats ten people comfortably, adds to the convivial feel of the space. The dining table is made from French oak floorboards; find a similar table and chairs at The French Depot

BATHROOM
In the en suite, a large contemporary bathtub is perfectly positioned to enjoy the views. Try Lussari freestanding bath, Victoria + Albert

BEDROOM
The scheme in this ground-floor bedroom is simple and serene. For a similar Scandi-style wood-framed bed, try John Lewis & Partners

functionality, comfortable feel and honest elegance in the way the materials have been used throughout are a testament to that. Another very important factor for the couple was their carbon footprint, so the house boasts a ground source heat pump for underfloor heating, a large array of solar panels, triple glazing, rainwater storage for toilet flushing, LED lighting throughout and passive solar gain via the floor-to-ceiling, south-facing windows. With the help of a vine-covered pergola, these are shaded in the summer and soak up any sun in the winter.

The whole back of the house has been given over to a wall of floor-to-ceiling picture windows that look out onto the concrete terrace and gardens beyond. Turn right and you enter the sitting room, which, despite its lofty proportions, feels cosy and snug, thanks to the wood-burning stove and ample seating. This is a space of ecclesiastical beauty, with triple-aspect windows that are an altar to the surrounding countryside, yet individual touches, like Bronwen's father's collection of religious icons and her mother's desk, ensure this space feels personal and intimate.

At the other end of the house lies the kitchen/dining area, which looks down across the valley below. The warm wood dining table and chairs contrast nicely with the white Formica and ply kitchen units, while the long east-to-west vistas keep you connected to the rest of the house.

Back downstairs, a long galley with floor-to-ceiling storage behind sleek doors leads the way to more bedrooms and Bronwen's painting studio. These downstairs rooms, with their poured concrete walls and floors, have a monastic simplicity and, being on the lower level, an intimate connection to the landscape outside.

Ask Steve and Bronwen what their favourite part of the house is and it's no surprise to hear, 'The views through the seasons.' This is a house that is truly connected to its surroundings, in both its architecture and its spirit, and built for future generations in terms of its timeless design aesthetic, but also its forward-thinking, low-carbon footprint. As Steve and Bronwen say, 'We want the house to be our legacy to our now grown-up children.' ㉕

The Romantic Minimalist
SIMPLE HOMES WITH SOUL
ATLANTA BARTLETT & DAVE COOTE

> ‘On our planning storyboards, the most poignant image for the house was a simple wood-clad boathouse that sat on a lake’

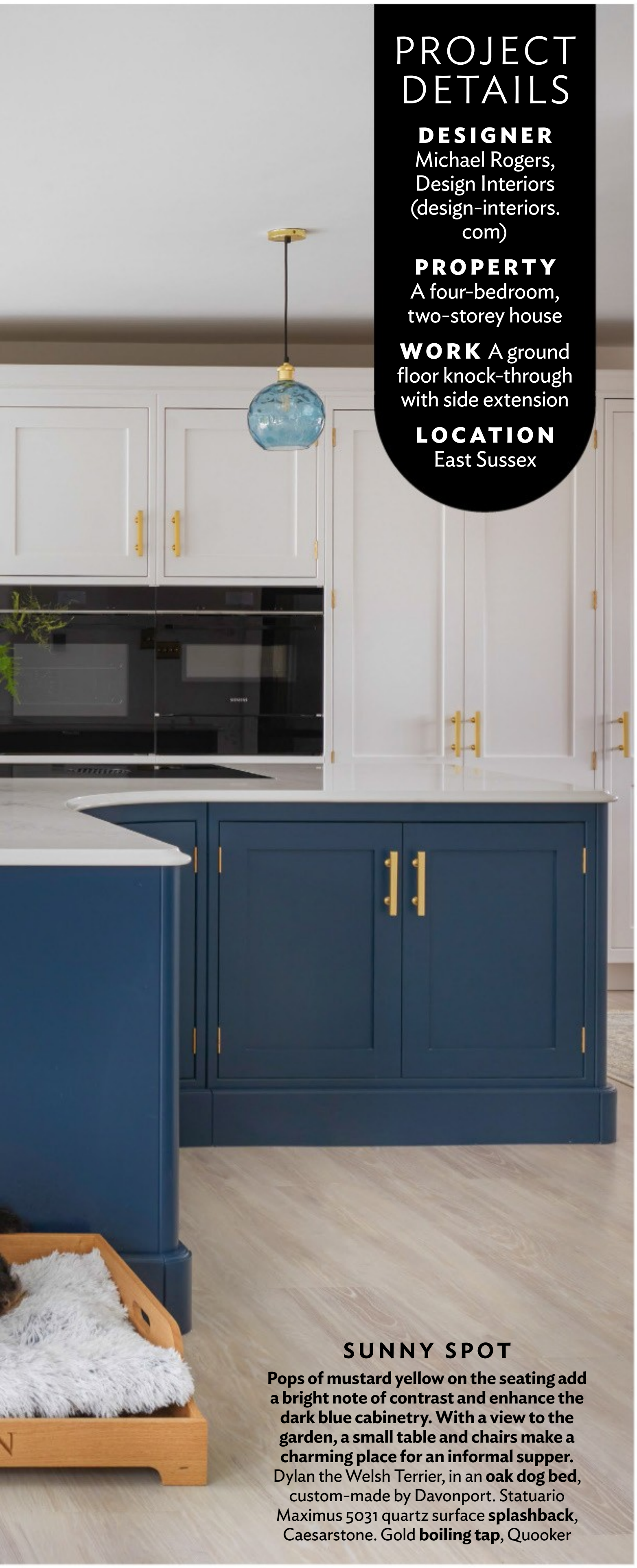
Taken from *The Romantic Minimalist* by Atlanta Bartlett and Dave Coote; photography by Polly Wreford (£30, Mitchell Beazley)

SOCIAL OCCASION

A kitchen that was made for entertaining was the priority for one couple and their new home

WORDS RUTH CORBETT | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DARREN CHUNG

no.15



PROJECT DETAILS

DESIGNER Michael Rogers, Design Interiors (design-interiors.com)

PROPERTY A four-bedroom, two-storey house

WORK A ground floor knock-through with side extension

LOCATION East Sussex

SUNNY SPOT

Pops of mustard yellow on the seating add a bright note of contrast and enhance the dark blue cabinetry. With a view to the garden, a small table and chairs make a charming place for an informal supper. Dylan the Welsh Terrier, in an **oak dog bed**, custom-made by Davonport. Statuario Maximus 5031 quartz surface **splashback**, Caesarstone. Gold **boiling tap**, Quooker

Adam and Gail Walker had been living in a four-storey townhouse for over 20 years when stair fatigue finally convinced them to buy a home less vertically challenging and with more lateral space. ‘We were lucky to find a two-storey house with a bigger garden,’ says Adam.

1 ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

The kitchen they inherited was 40 years old, poorly located some distance from the dining room, and not conducive to entertaining. They hired their friend, Michael Rogers, MD of Design Interiors, to help them transform it. ‘We sat down together and Mike started sketching out ideas, including options we hadn’t thought of,’ says Adam. ‘He showed us how we could change the layout to create an open-plan kitchen/dining/living space with a good sense of flow and better access to the outside.’

2 IN FULL FLOW

Michael suggested that by removing internal walls and extending across the side of the house, Adam and Gail could achieve a space that was more in sync with their sociable lifestyle. ‘To encourage light to flow into the room, three sets of steel-framed double doors were fitted across its width, a run of tall cabinets houses ovens, fridge freezer and pantry cupboard, while a kitchen dresser, sink area and dishwasher come together in a practical new layout,’ says Michael. To create a central hub, Michael chose a T-shaped island, merging the dining and living areas. Bespoke furniture by Davonport was chosen, which made it possible to achieve the unique concave curves of the island, within which is plenty of storage space. There’s now an area for a banquette seat and breakfast table; a lovely, casual spot in which to sit and enjoy the garden.

3 SURFACE MATTERS

Fitted throughout the room were quartz surfaces with a marble veining effect. ‘It’s a material that’s durable, stain resistant and attractive, particularly where utilised on the splashback, which has a beautiful, tactile, fluted detail,’ says Michael.

4 MAKING A STATEMENT

Neutral white paint for the tall cabinets minimises their size, while a bold blue for the island makes a strong design statement. ‘Gail added the mustard yellow pops of colour to the upholstery to create a sense of warmth,’ explains Adam. ‘And the gold handles add a luxurious finishing touch. Overall we’d both agree, it’s an absolute joy to be in.’

ELEGANT EDGE

For the statement island, Davonport's curved cabinetry adds wow-factor. The worktop is finished with a lamb's tongue edge profile, further adding to the overall sense of sleekness. Tall cabinets flank an entire wall, housing essential utilities; their gold handles bringing a touch of glamour to the look.

Tillingham bespoke **cabinetry** by Davonport; **painted in** Wevet and Hague Blue by Farrow & Ball. Rotunda **handles** in Satin Brass finish, Armac Martin. Metal-framed **doors** by Shaws of Brighton. **Wine cooler**, Siemens. X Pure **hob**, Bora. Saarinen Tulip **table**, Little Tulip. **Dining chairs**; Navy Blue Freya **pendant light**, Next

‘A CUPBOARD DEDICATED TO A TEA, COFFEE AND TOAST STATION FREES UP VALUABLE WORKTOP SPACE’

TOP TIP

Curved corners on kitchen cabinets and worktops are a practical design feature and also create a timeless look

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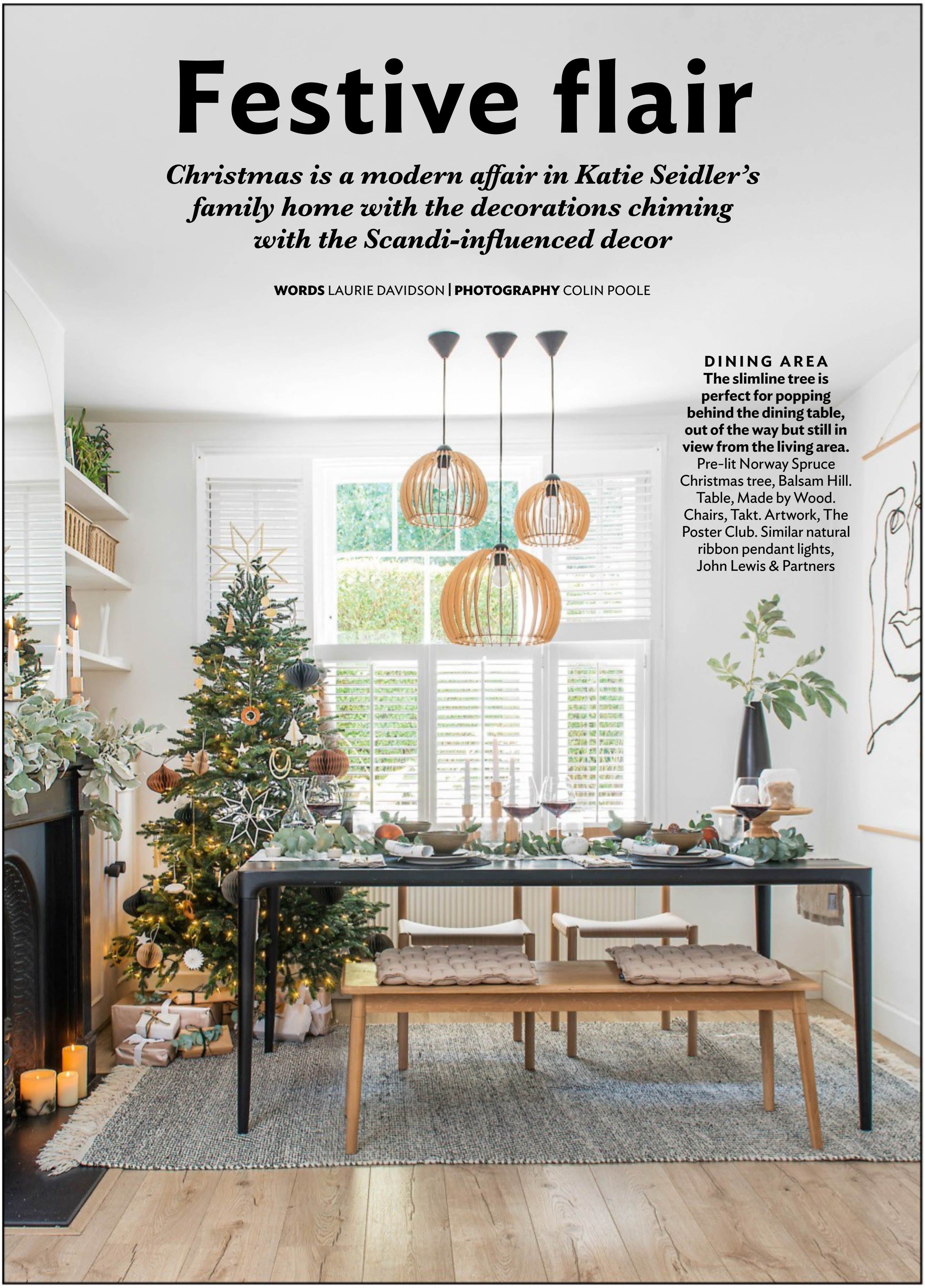
no.16

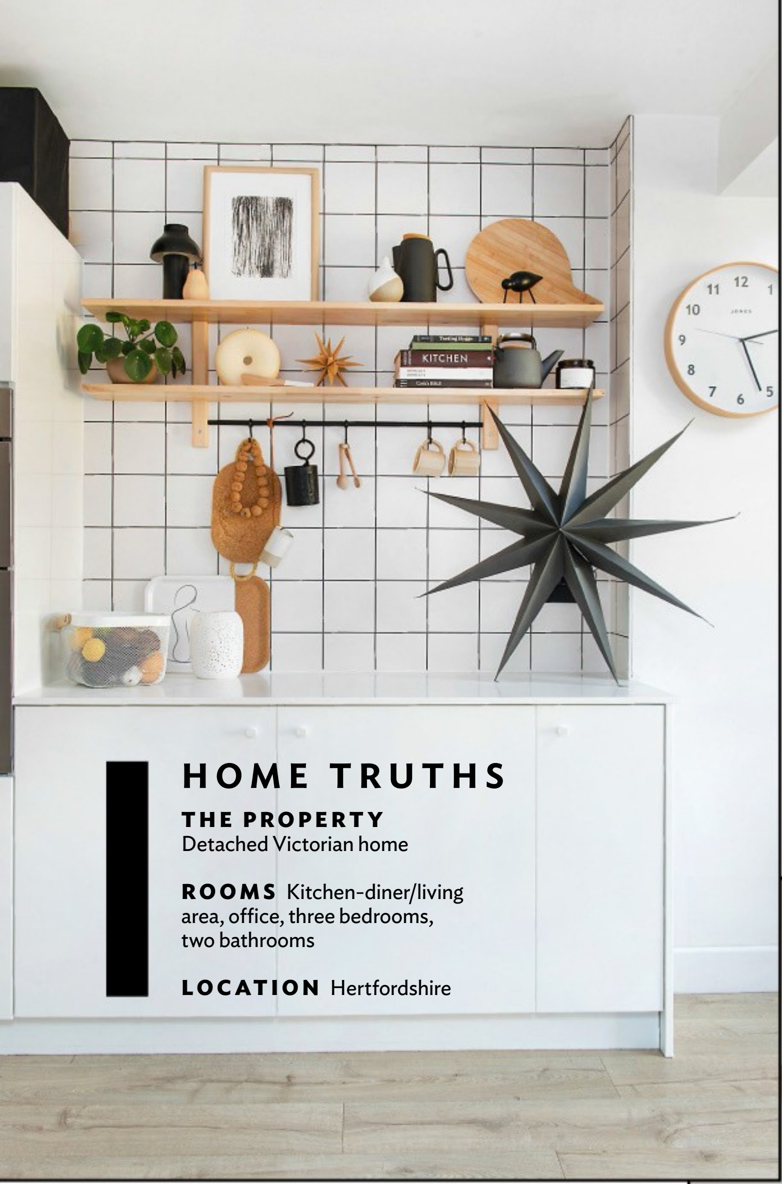
Festive flair

Christmas is a modern affair in Katie Seidler's family home with the decorations chiming with the Scandi-influenced decor

WORDS LAURIE DAVIDSON | **PHOTOGRAPHY** COLIN POOLE



DINING AREA **The slimline tree is perfect for popping behind the dining table, out of the way but still in view from the living area.** Pre-lit Norway Spruce Christmas tree, Balsam Hill. Table, Made by Wood. Chairs, Takt. Artwork, The Poster Club. Similar natural ribbon pendant lights, John Lewis & Partners

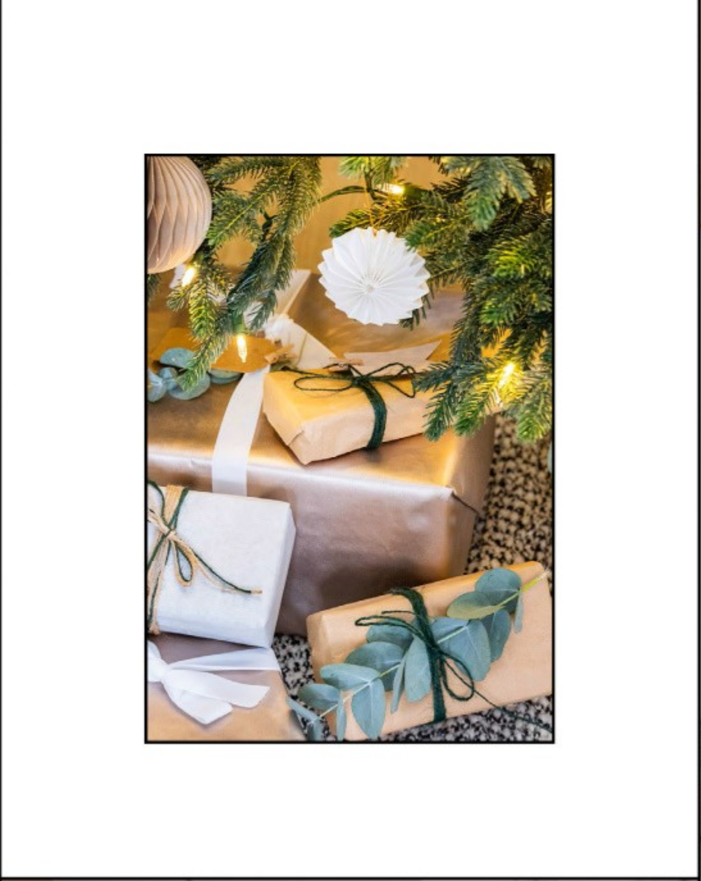


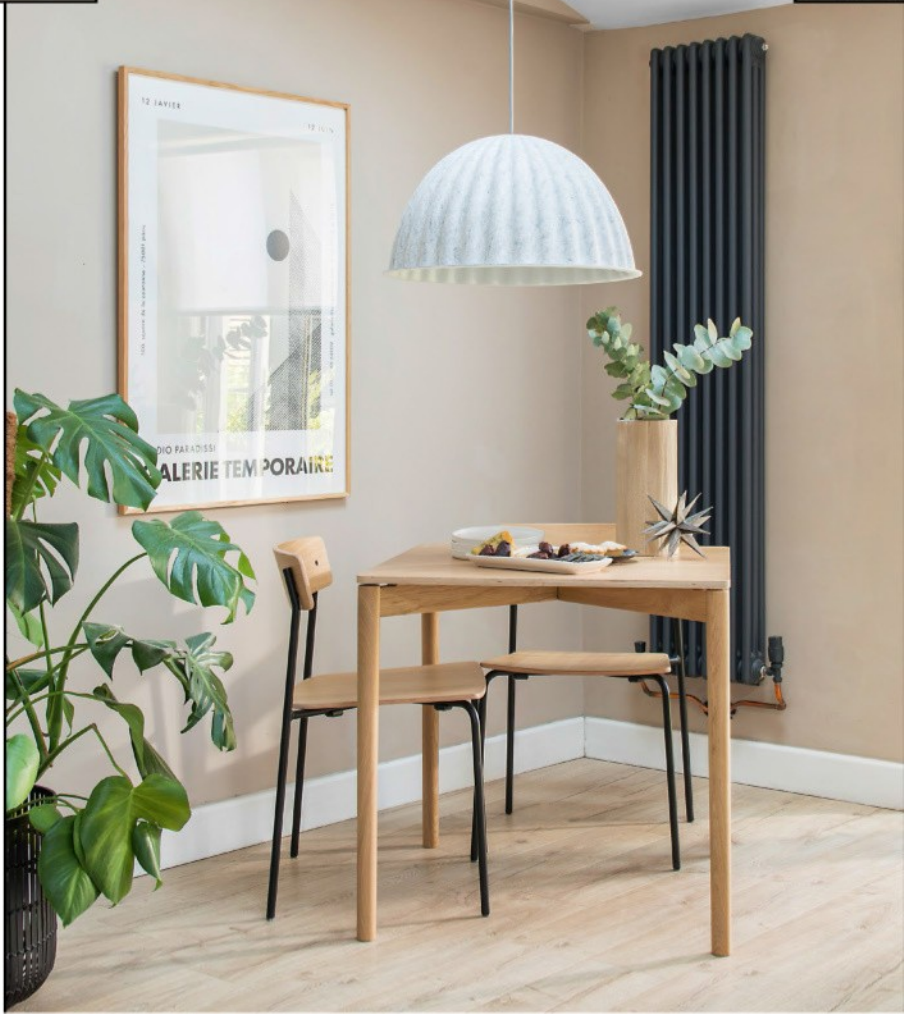
HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Detached Victorian home

ROOMS Kitchen-diner/living area, office, three bedrooms, two bathrooms

LOCATION Hertfordshire





KITCHEN

'I love open shelving in the kitchen as I believe this space doesn't have to be purely functional,' says Katie. 'I can display my favourite ceramics and plants alongside useful items such as coffee pots and cookbooks.' Shelves, Ikea. Similar hanging star decoration, Layered Lounge

SEATING AREA

Part of the kitchen has been painted in a sandy colour to bring warmth to the space, while a small wood table provides an additional dining spot. Walls in Packed Sand, Valspar. Dining table and chairs, Takt. Plant pot, Made. Under the Bell pendant light, Muuto

LIVING AREA

This is part of the open-plan space, with a door to the kitchen on the left and the dining area to the right. 'Whoever is in the living area is near enough to the kitchen that we can still chat to each other,' says Katie. Sofa, Made. Coffee table, Bloomingville. Armchair; log holder, both Ikea. Lamp base, H&M Home. Lamp shade, Ferm Living. Rug, Nordic Knots. Artwork, Studio Paradissi. Similar floorstanding paper Christmas trees, Layered lounge

Christmas is all about family in the Seidler household. The big day is spent with loved ones, the lead-up is full of cosy nights at home with a glass of red wine and a mince pie or two in front of the wood burner. However, Katie, whose Victorian house is in a busy market town in Hertfordshire, will admit that she likes to keep the decorations simple and minimal, with lots of natural elements that fit in with their home's pared-back Scandi style.

Having bought the three-bedroom property, after many years of renting, the couple were keen to make their mark on the place and fill it with their love of Scandinavian design. 'Although the house didn't need any structural work, the interior was very plain and hadn't been used to its full potential at all,' says Katie. 'I could instantly see how we could transform it to make it work for us.'

With no major work to be done, painting was carried out and a new wood floor installed. Katie wanted to ensure the house was cohesive, light and serene, and describes her vision as a mix of 'Japanese style and Scandi design'. Her love of Danish furniture, clean lines and lots of texture were the focus when designing each room, with her eye for detail ensuring every corner and nook has been well planned.

The Seidlers' living and dining space was previously used as one large living area, but Katie quickly turned it into a more functional room where they could entertain as well as relax. 'Zoning is key,' she says, 'I've used rugs to turn the two areas into distinct spaces. Everyone needs their home to work for them and I think we need to ensure it's how we want to live right now and not necessarily worry about future owners.'

> 'BY CHANGING TO AN OPEN-PLAN LAYOUT WE'VE ACHIEVED A LIGHT, UNCLUTTERED SPACE THAT FEELS WARM AND HOMELY'

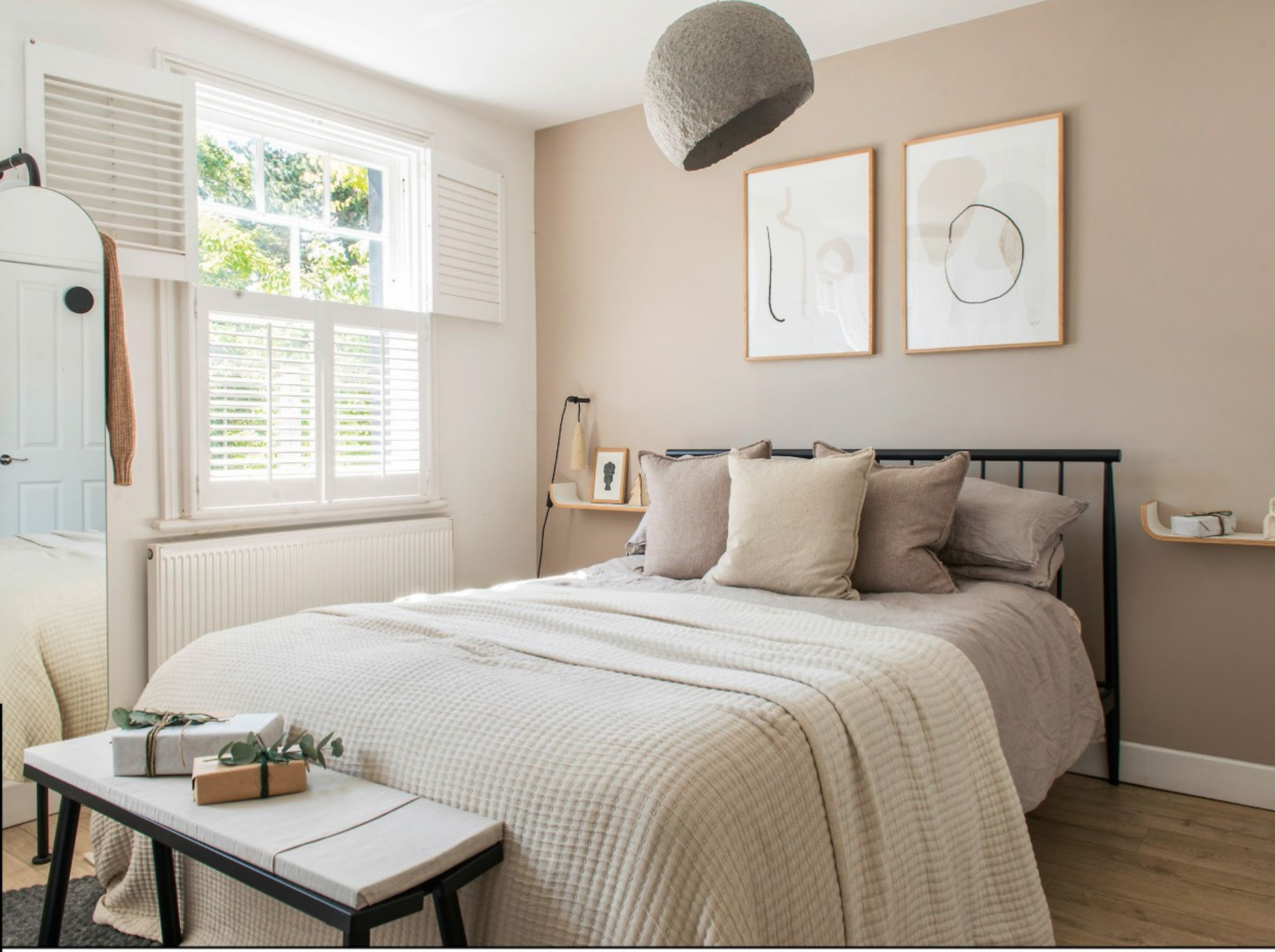
KEEP LIFE SIMPLE
December

LANDING
The calming, neutral tones continue upstairs, where the banister is also used to arrange some festive decorations.
Shelf unit, Wayfair. Print, Made

BATHROOM
Pale colours have been used in the bathroom as a backdrop for artwork, plants and accessories. 'By using paint effectively and changing up the small accessories and little details, you can totally transform a space,' says Katie.
Mirror, shelf and hooks, Gejst Design

OFFICE SPACE
'The loft room was where we tried to fit three goals into one room,' says Katie. 'It needed to be a spare bedroom, have storage space and include a home office for me. It's probably one of the most practical rooms in the house.'
Walls in Parchment, Craig & Rose. Desk, Tiptoe. Chair, Ikea. Lamp, HomeSense

BEDROOM
The muted palette continues in here with a warm beige wall framing the bed beautifully.
Walls in Packed Sand, Valspar. Penn bed, Made. Pendant light, Crea-Re Studio. Bedspread, Ferm Living. Artwork, The Poster Club



The biggest job the couple had to contend with was the kitchen, where they ripped out the old worktops and took off wall cabinets to open up the space. The worktops were replaced, the walls were tiled and a new sink, hob and wall shelves added.

Nowhere does Katie's love of natural materials and wood come into play more than in the home office, where wooden batons were recently installed onto the wall for a slatted effect. They add a warmth to the room that's calm and subtle, while adding impact, albeit in a more natural form.

Keeping to the same colours in each room also means they flow from one to the other seamlessly and enables Katie to move furniture and accessories around easily,as they work in every space. 'Danish brands are my go-to when it comes to furniture and accessories; Ferm Living, Hay, Normann Copenhagen and Takt, for example,' she says.

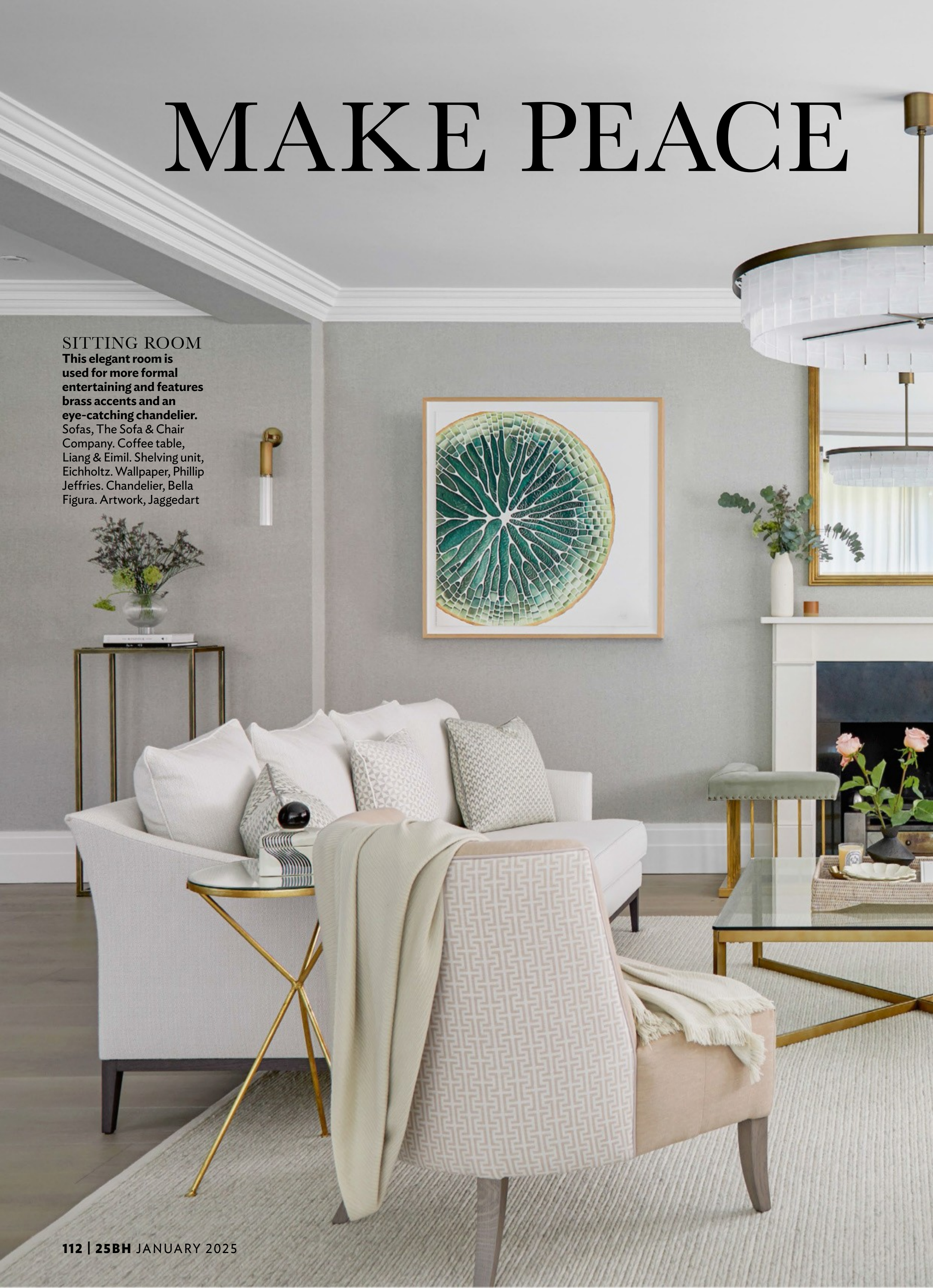
With the interior complete, the Seidlers were able to turn their attention to the exterior, where they gave their compact garden a neat refresh. They employed the help of a local company, who landscaped it and built planters around the edge, which took around a month. 'I'd love a bigger garden so I could build my dream garden office, but we've made the best use of the small space,' she says.

Asked about her finishing touches, Katie confirms that she still has a huge list to go. She's constantly tweaking the small things and helping the house evolve. 'I'm not the most patient person and there's been so much I've wanted to change but it takes time,' she says. 'Creating a home you love can be a slow process. I'm so pleased with what we've achieved, though, and I'm looking forward to showing off our hard work at Christmas.'

See more of Katie's work at @hello_haus

'A SMART SPACE-SAVING IDEA WAS TO USE TWO SHELVES AS BEDSIDE TABLES – THEY LOOK SLEEK AND STYLISH'

MAKE PEACE

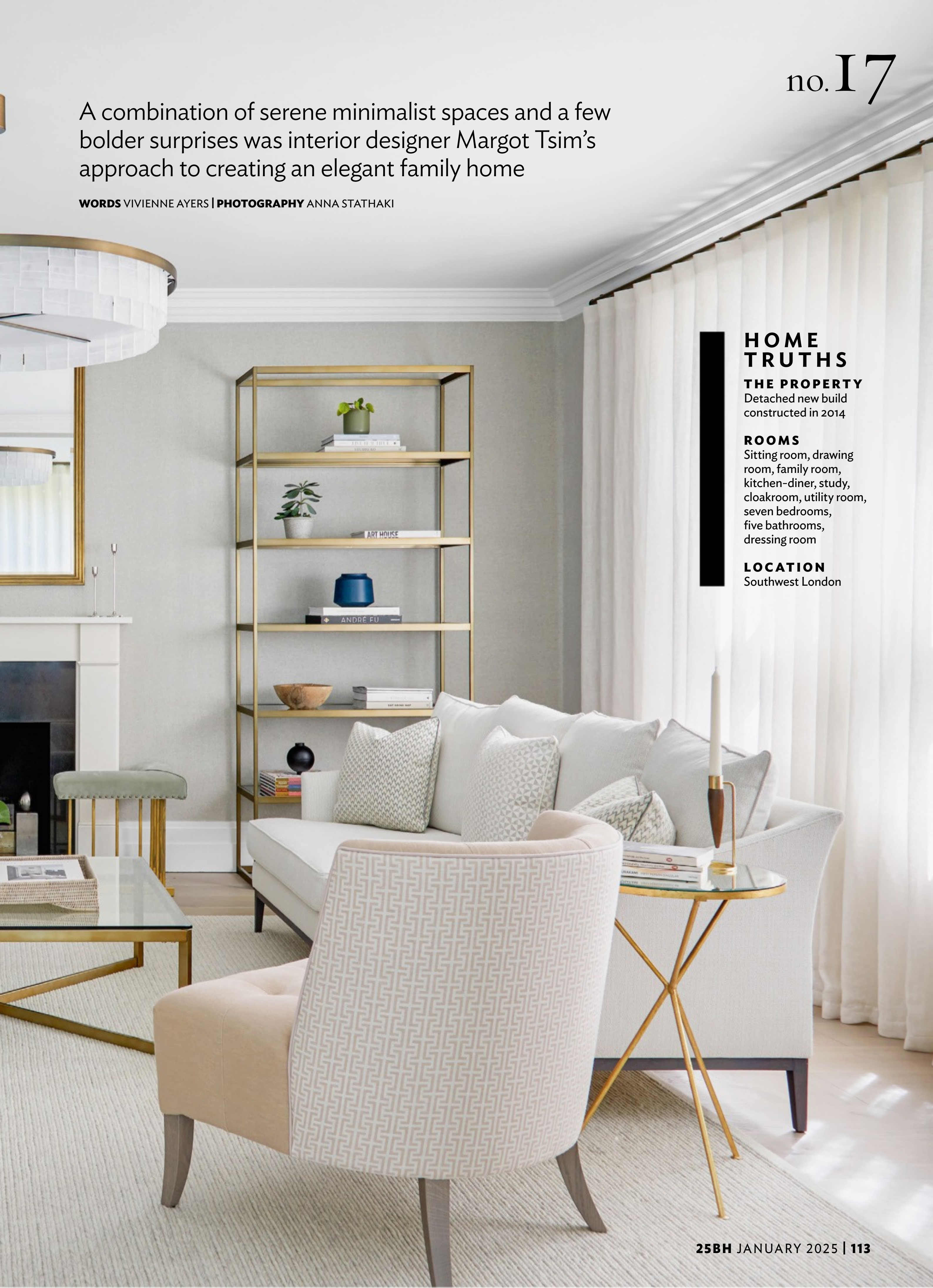


SITTING ROOM
This elegant room is used for more formal entertaining and features brass accents and an eye-catching chandelier. Sofas, The Sofa & Chair Company. Coffee table, Liang & Eimil. Shelving unit, Eichholtz. Wallpaper, Phillip Jeffries. Chandelier, Bella Figura. Artwork, Jaggedart

no.17

A combination of serene minimalist spaces and a few bolder surprises was interior designer Margot Tsim's approach to creating an elegant family home

WORDS VIVIENNE AYERS | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ANNA STATHAKI



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Detached new build constructed in 2014

ROOMS
Sitting room, drawing room, family room, kitchen-diner, study, cloakroom, utility room, seven bedrooms, five bathrooms, dressing room

LOCATION
Southwest London

WHAT WAS YOUR BRIEF FOR THIS HOUSE? To create a home for a family of four who recently relocated back to the country having lived overseas for many years.

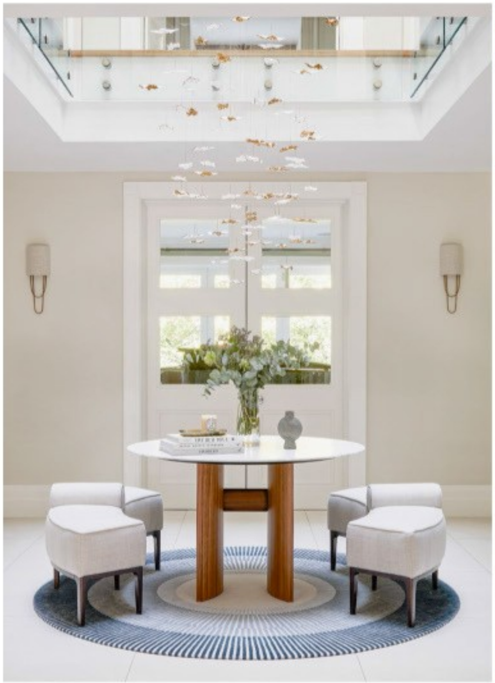
HOW INVOLVED WERE THE HOMEOWNERS? They trusted my vision. They were busy with their work and sorting out the relocation of their family when the refurbishment happened.

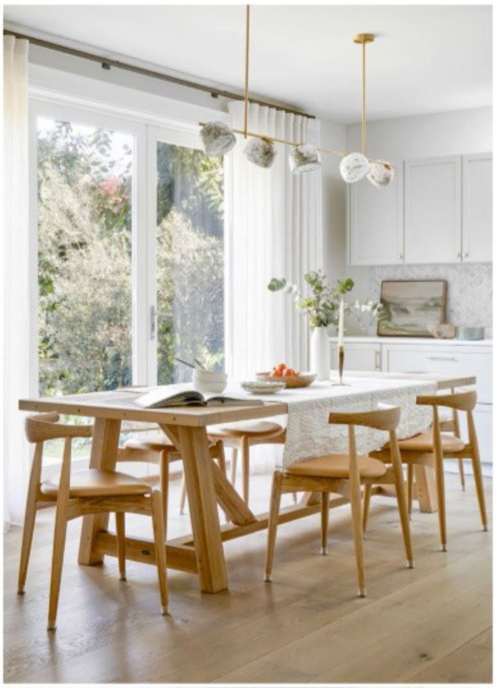
DESCRIBE THE HOMEOWNERS' STYLE. The clients wanted a home that was elegant and had character, but that was also homely as, after all, they are a young family. They didn't want anything too quirky or hotel-like, or that had a generic new-build vibe.

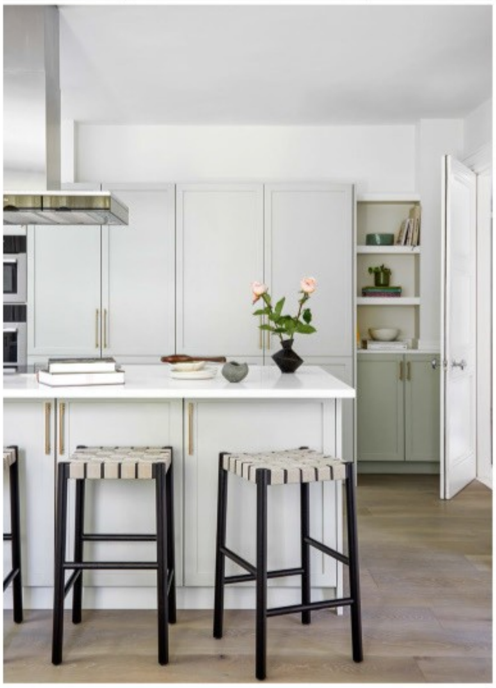
WHAT WAS YOUR INSPIRATION FOR THE SCHEME? I wanted to create a classic contemporary home that showcases UK and European craft while complementing the green surroundings. I tried to source as many items from local UK suppliers as possible, with a few pieces from Italy and Portugal.

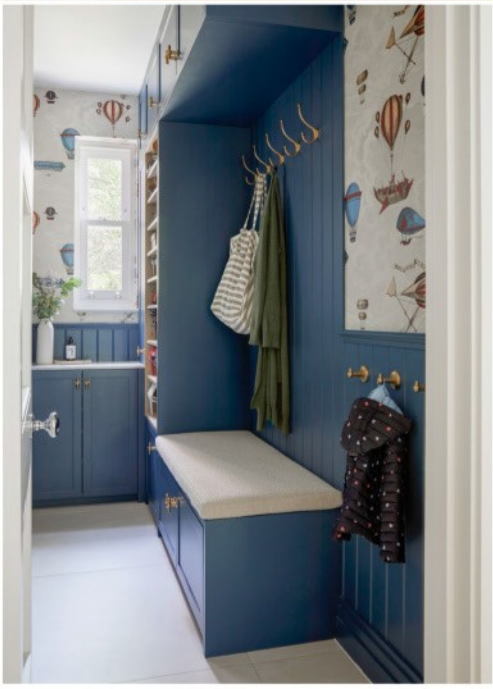
WHICH ROOM WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT TO THE HOMEOWNERS? The kitchen, family room and hallway as they are the entertaining and family spaces that are used the most.

HOW DID YOU CHOOSE THE COLOUR PALETTE? For the more formal spaces looking onto the garden, I chose a palette of green and pink, which is a very









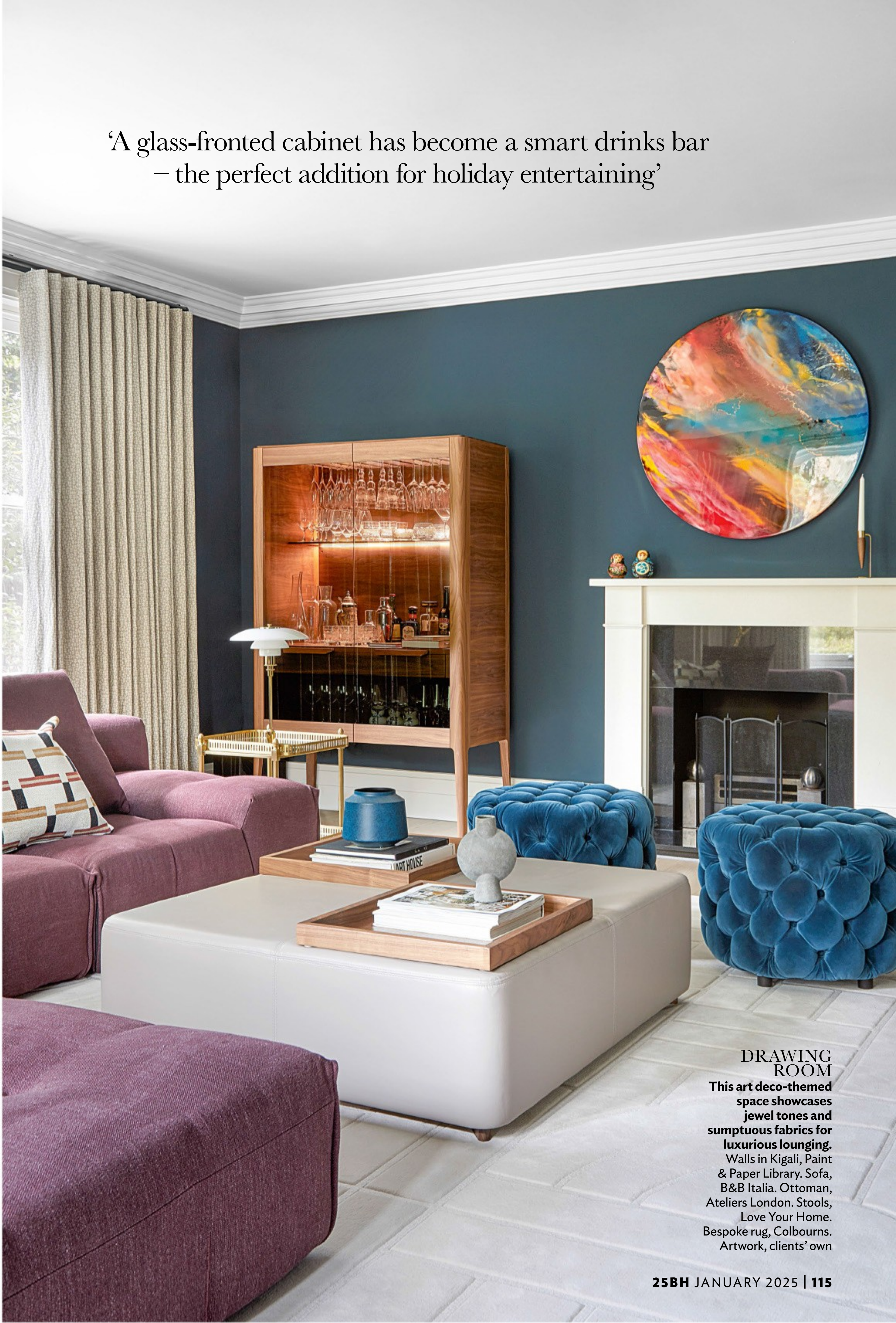
HALLWAY
A custom light sculpture draws the eye to the roof light. Table, Porada. Custom stools, The Sofa & Chair Company. Custom rug, Colbourns. Walls in Joanna, Little Greene. Custom light sculpture, Haberdashery

KITCHEN-DINER
Chic wooden furniture introduces a natural touch. Dining table, Neptune. Chairs, Carl Hansen & Søn. Pendant lights, Heathfield & Co. Curtains in a Kvadrat fabric, made by The Curtain Tailor

KITCHEN
Soft green cabinetry links to the outdoors, while retro-style bar stools provide a handy perch at the island. Custom cabinet fronts made by Luxe Projects; in Mizzle, Farrow & Ball. Bar stools, Monologue

UTILITY ROOM
Margot changed the function of this space so that the family can store away their most used shoes and coats. Deep blue cabinetry and panelling is combined with fun wallpaper for a joyful twist. Bespoke cabinetry in Hicks' Blue, Little Greene. Wallpaper, Cole & Son

‘A glass-fronted cabinet has become a smart drinks bar – the perfect addition for holiday entertaining’



DRAWING ROOM

This art deco-themed space showcases jewel tones and sumptuous fabrics for luxurious lounging. Walls in Kigali, Paint & Paper Library. Sofa, B&B Italia. Ottoman, Ateliers London. Stools, Love Your Home. Bespoke rug, Colbourns. Artwork, clients’ own

MAIN BEDROOM

A statement wallpaper injects drama and sets the scene. Colours from the wallpaper are teased out with the furnishings. Wallpaper, Hovia. Bed, Ligne Roset. Bedside table, Porada. Pendant light, Petite Friture elegant and calming combination and works well with the surrounding greenery. For the other rooms, I tried to introduce character. The clients wanted the drawing room to be art deco-themed so I chose a plum tone for the sofa and deep blue for the walls. In the main bedroom, the clients really wanted a floral wallpaper as a backdrop to their bed. I used it as a baseline to create a scheme around as it was such a bold statement.

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE? It is a big house and the clients prefer a minimalist approach. The challenge was ensuring that I didn't over-specify items and that I selected the right key pieces to anchor the house, while leaving space for them to collect more over time.

WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE FOR CREATING A SUCCESSFUL SCHEME? Having a clear understanding of the clients' brief and likes and dislikes is very important from the beginning of a project, especially working with overseas clients. This is because they won't have a lot of time to invest in the design and build. It is also paramount to understand the spaces, light levels and mood you are trying to create for each space so that you can devise a well-balanced environment. I place a lot of emphasis on balancing the function of a space, as well as the aesthetics, so trying to tick all the boxes is like fitting a jigsaw puzzle together.

margottsim.com

DRESSING ROOM
Pink accents inject a soft touch to this practical yet luxurious space. Pendant light, Bocci. Custom blind made by The Curtain Tailor

CHILD'S BEDROOM
Built-in cabinetry provides handy storage while a nature-inspired wallpaper strikes a whimsical note. Custom cabinetry wardrobe and bench seating design by Margot Tsim and made by Luxe Projects. Wallpaper, Boråstapeter

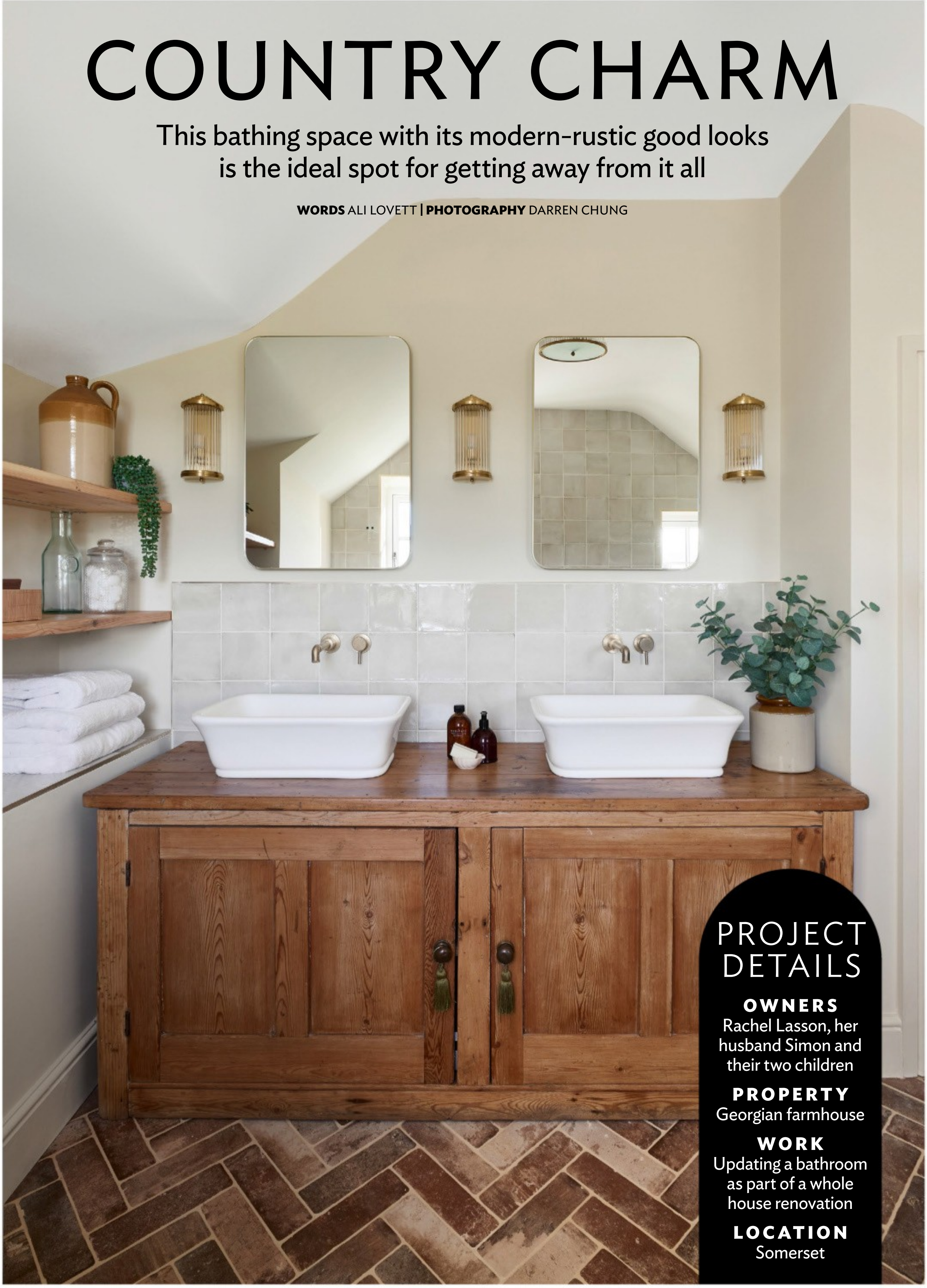
CHILD'S BEDROOM
Fun bed linen introduces a playful touch. Bed, John Lewis & Partners. Bespoke cabinetry designed by Margot Tsim and made by Luxe Projects. Pendant light, West Elm. Bedside table, Olivia's

BATHROOM
The existing bathroom was given a new lease of life with tiles that 'jazz up the space', according to Margot. Encaustic tiles, Bert & May. Mirrors, William Wood

COUNTRY CHARM

This bathing space with its modern-rustic good looks is the ideal spot for getting away from it all

WORDS ALI LOVETT | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DARREN CHUNG



PROJECT DETAILS

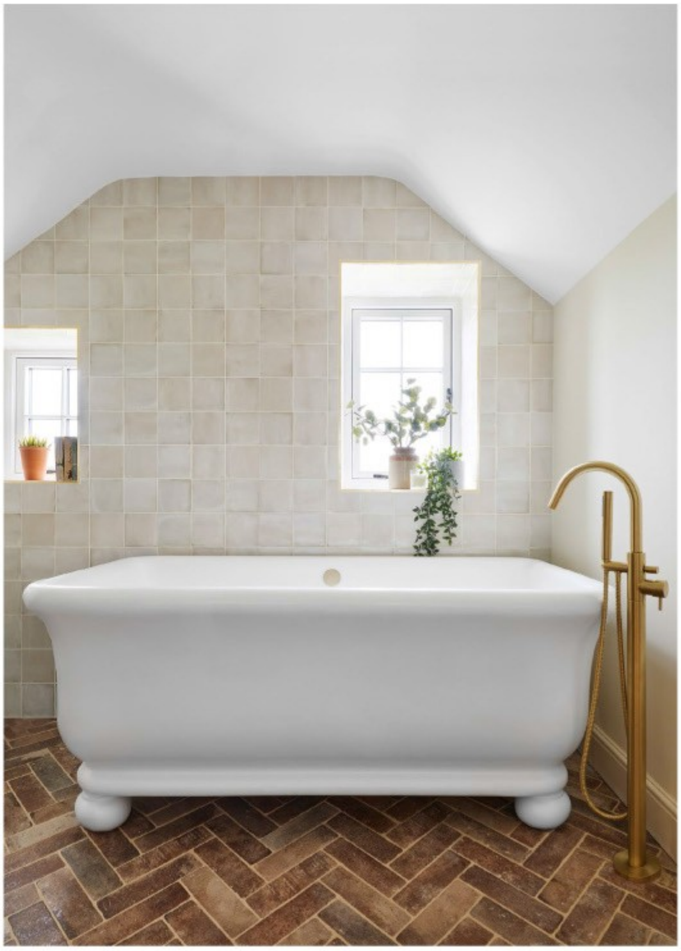
OWNERS
Rachel Lasson, her husband Simon and their two children

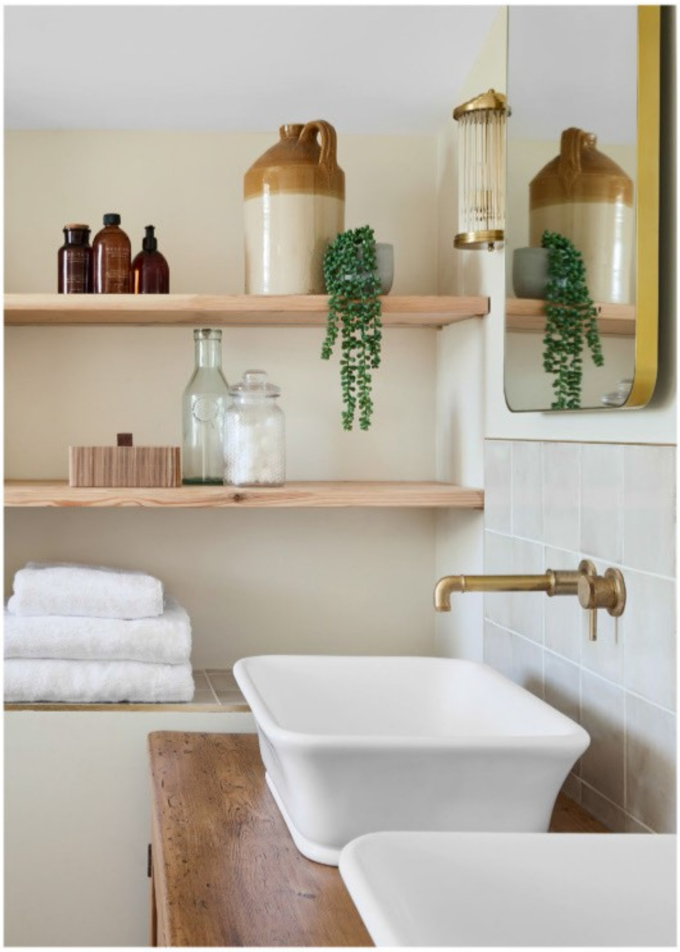
PROPERTY
Georgian farmhouse

WORK
Updating a bathroom as part of a whole house renovation

LOCATION
Somerset

no. 18





Rachel Lasson and her husband Simon aren't rushing the renovation of their run-down farmhouse but one room they prioritised was the bathroom. 'We're trying to do justice to the property, so we've slowly been renovating,' says Rachel.

1 GETTING STARTED

The couple started renovations with essentials, like replacing rotten windows and installing a new boiler and electrics, before starting work on the bathroom. 'The bath taps didn't work,' remembers Rachel, 'it's lucky we had a shower room downstairs to use. Plus it had a separate small toilet, which was dark and dingy.' When the couple pulled back the carpet, they could see from the floorboards that the two rooms used to actually be one.

2 OPENING UP

'We wanted to celebrate the original architecture, not hide it,' says Rachel. The stud wall, which was added in the 1990s, was removed to create a spacious room. 'Opening up the space also means when you look up there's a lovely arched ceiling,' she says. 'We also had to reinforce the floor as I wanted a heavy free-standing bath.'

3 FINDING INSPIRATION

When it came to the decor, Rachel was influenced by a recent holiday to Florence. 'We've got such busy lives that I wanted somewhere where in the evening you could go and shut the door, read a book with a candle and really escape. A deep, luxurious bath was a must-have – I can sink right down in this one and it's so relaxing.'

4 VINTAGE TOUCH

The couple chose warm, muted browns and natural materials like wood and stone, finishing the look with a vintage cabinet. 'It's from my favourite local antiques and vintage shop, called Lock, Stock and Sparrow,' says Rachel. 'The owner sanded it back and took out the drawers to make it exactly the right size for two basins. We love our bathroom now. Our home is a lifelong project – we'll continually be improving it.' ㉕

Follow Rachel and Simon's progress via @thepinkcottageadventure

DOUBLE DELIGHT

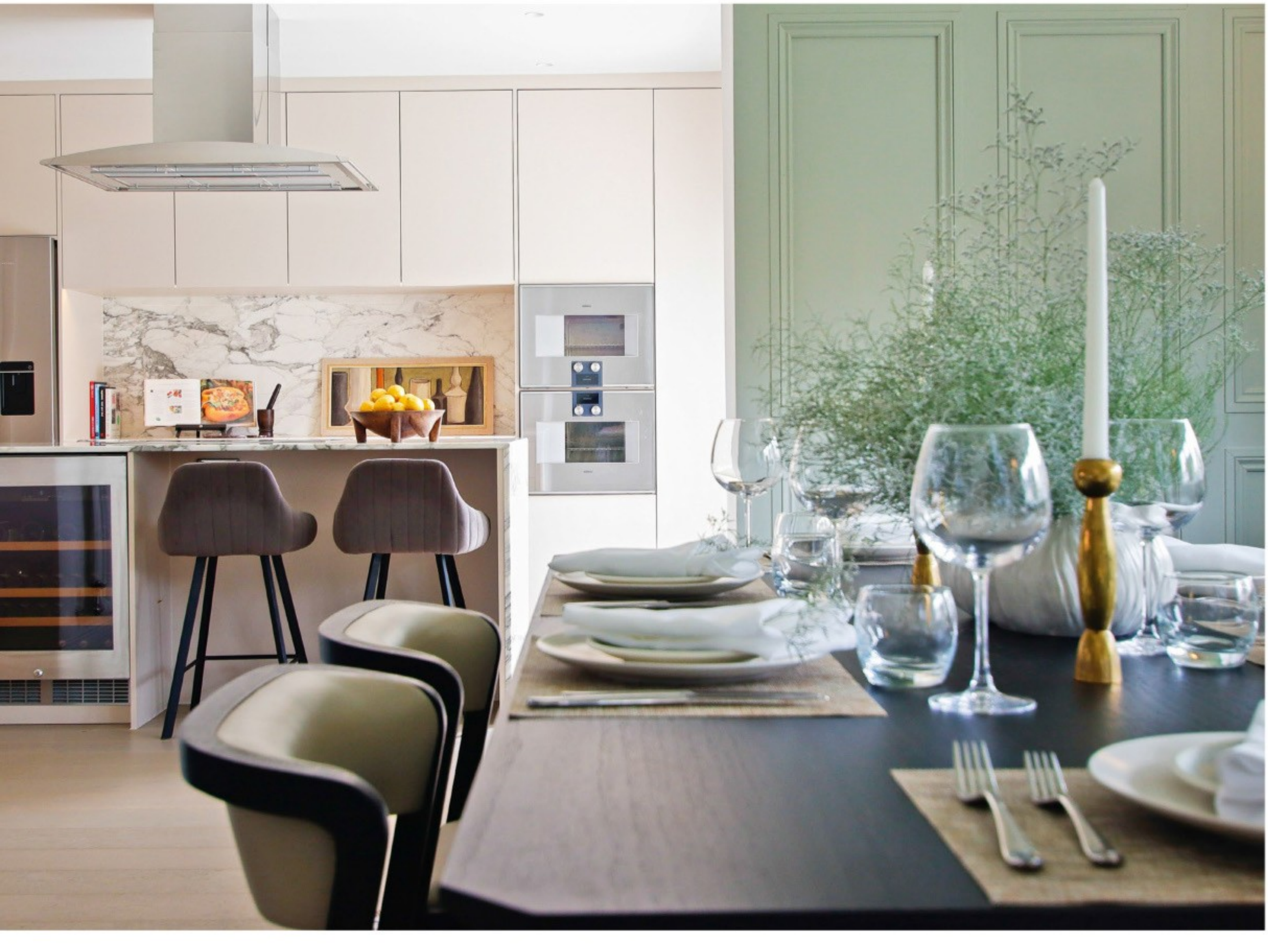
The couple made a 'must-have' wish list when they started planning the bathroom and a double vanity cabinet was right at the top.

Senator **bath**; Magnus/Senator countertop **basins**, both BC Designs. MPRO **bath shower mixer** in Brushed Bronze; MPRO Industrial basin two-hole set **taps** in Unlaquered Brushed Brass, both Crosswater. Trim **mirrors** in Brushed Brass, HiB. Alicante chevron **tiles**, Mandarin Stone, are similar. Baby Roddy **wall lights** in Brass, Pooky. Custom **vanity unit**, Lock, Stock and Sparrow. Zen Natural Gloss porcelain **wall tiles**, Mandarin Stone

In full FLOW

Gutting the entire ground floor of this house enabled designer Sarah Vitor to ensure that every space connected beautifully

WORDS JULIET BENNING | **PHOTOGRAPHY** FERGUS DEVLIN



DINING AREA
A panelled return denotes the dining area while the sage colour pairs well with the muted tonality of the kitchen cabinets. Panels in Tracery II, Little Greene. Vessel dining table in Grey oak, Camerich. Ming dining chairs, Alchemy Collections

KITCHEN
The pale shade of the sleek touch-to-open cabinetry allows the natural veins of the Calacatta marble to draw focus. Cabinetry, Danmar Kitchens & Interiors. Calacatta Arabescato marble, Roman Tiles. Ovens, Gaggenau

no.19

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY A detached home built in the 1990s

ROOMS Cloakroom, utility room, kitchen-dining-living area, living room, four bedrooms, dressing room, three bathrooms

LOCATION Kent

‘With walls removed and rooms relocated, this bright home is now perfectly suited to the way the family lives’

HOW DID YOU COME TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT? The clients are a young couple with two children. I've had a professional relationship with them for a few years as I created the interiors for the newly opened The Gosling restaurant in Surrey, which the husband co-owns with his business partner. When they bought their new home, they wanted Studio Vitor to get involved with the renovation and interior design.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE HOUSE WHEN YOUR CLIENTS BOUGHT IT? While the bedrooms on the first floor were well laid out, the ground floor needed a lot of improvement. It felt quite dated and not suited to the needs of modern family living. There were lots of rooms that were all separate from each other and much of the interior was quite dark. There was a large kitchen in the centre that felt like it was in a corridor and the living room was entirely closed off at the other end of the house.

WHAT WERE THE BIGGEST PRIORITIES FOR THE OWNERS? They wanted a well-functioning, flowing home that was filled with light. Aesthetically, they were keen to change everything. As a foodie family, the kitchen was an important factor for them, and they wanted it to be connected to the garden so they could watch the children play.

FAMILY LIVING ROOM

The neat footprint of the club chairs allows the space to breathe, while hints of yellow and mustard enliven the muted walls.

Notting corner sofa; Flamingo coffee table, both Camerich. Chairs reupholstered in cotton velvet, Pierre Frey. Silvanus rug in Rust; Greyson table lamp, both Soho Home. Ayabaca cushion, Oka

FORMAL LIVING ROOM

The open shelving is a showcase for a carefully curated selection of sculptural pieces in this beautifully composed corner.

Bespoke cabinetry, Studio Vitor. Le Déhanché scorched oak table lamp, The House. Greyson floor lamp, Soho Home. Apiales 9 chandelier in Satin Black, Nuura. Desert jute rug, HKLiving

HOW DID YOU RENOVATE THE SPACE? We pretty much gutted the whole ground floor. We pushed the entrance hall back, giving it double doors to the main living space. The kitchen was moved to a new location taking space from the garage to create a larger utility room. The two living rooms on the opposite side of the house were divided by steel framed doors but can still be used as one. Taking out load-bearing walls meant we had to replace them with lots of steel so we worked with a structural engineer to create those big open spaces. There was also a lot of plumbing and rewiring to be done.

HOW INVOLVED WERE THE OWNERS? They were lovely to work with as they really trusted us. When we first began talking about the interior schemes, the clients told us that they didn't like much colour, as they had always lived in neutral interiors, but they were very happy to have their boundaries pushed and receptive to our ideas. They wanted to know everything that was going on, but at the same time they put their faith in the process.

WHAT'S YOUR ADVICE FOR CREATING A SUCCESSFUL SCHEME? The motto I've always stuck by is that a beautiful space is one that's filled with character and authenticity and it has to reflect the uniqueness of the people who live there. ㉕

studiovitor.co.uk

MAIN BEDROOM

Elegant silhouettes, a mix of textures and patterns in differing scales combine to bring visual interest to this inviting scheme.
Gerrard bed; Finn table lamp, both Soho Home. Cushion in Wardle in Bayleaf/Manilla, Morris & Co. Curtain in Leyla in Citrus, Clarke & Clarke. Walls in Ceviche, Little Greene

EN SUITE

With dramatic veining and flashes of gold, these large-format tiles make a timeless partner for the brass fittings.
Arabescato Orobico marble tiles, Emperor Marble. VOS Brushed Brass shower fittings, Tap Store

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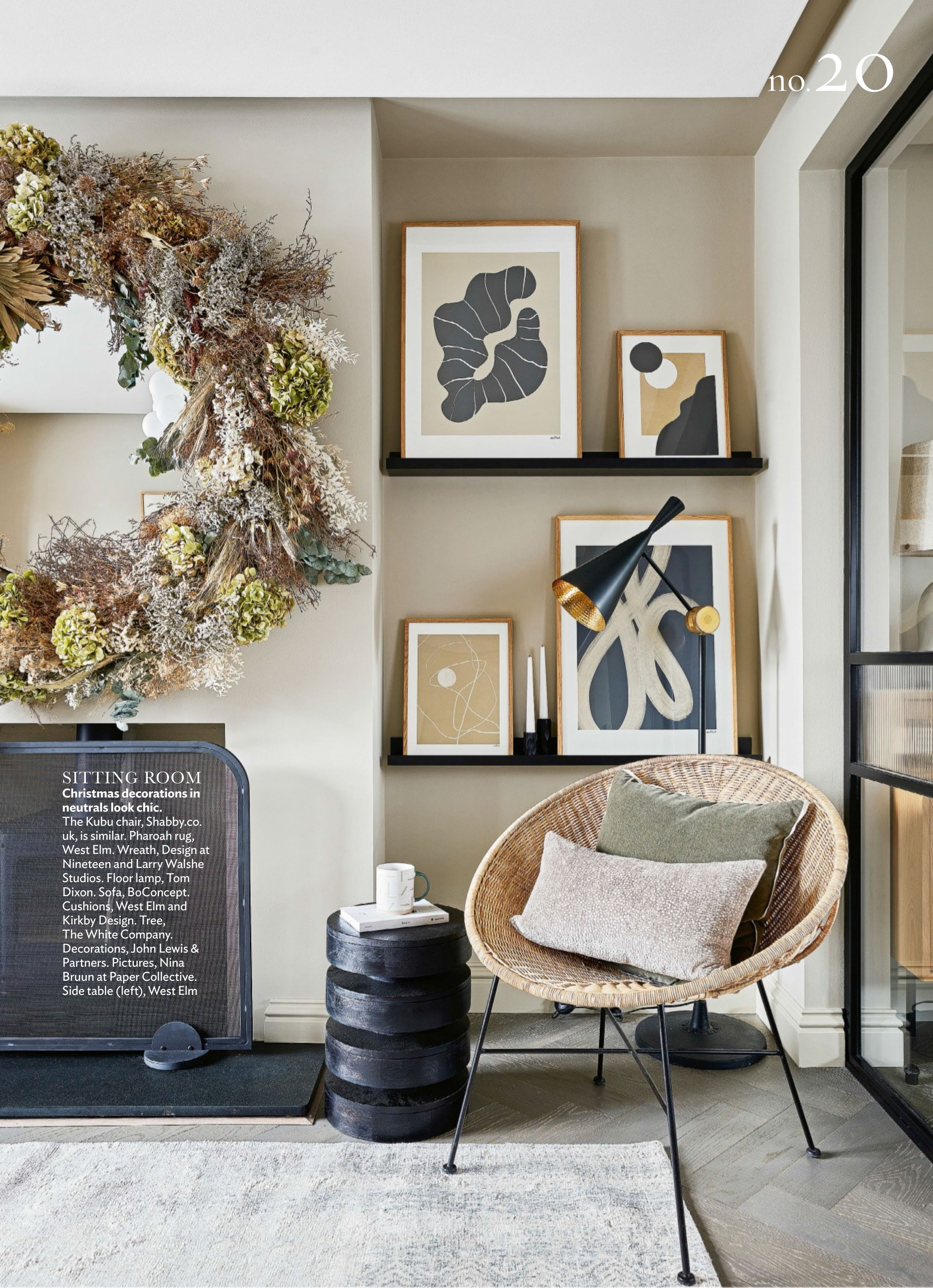
ALL IS CALM

No matter how busy the celebrations, the house that interior designer Justin Coakley calls home is always serene, with a chic and pared-back aesthetic that makes everyone who visits feel relaxed and welcome

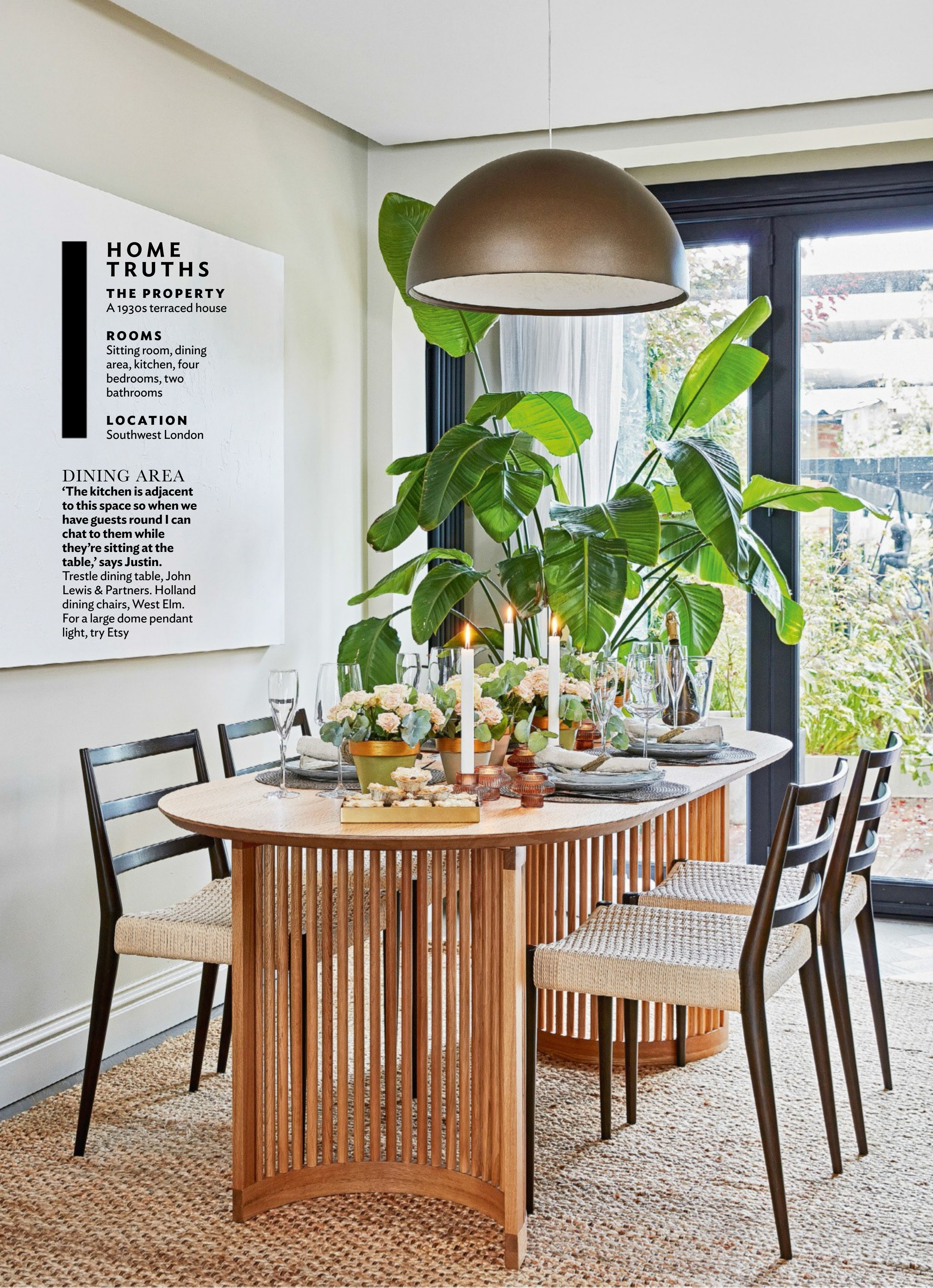
WORDS ALISON JONES | **STYLING** JUSTIN COAKLEY AND AMELIA SMITH | **PHOTOGRAPHY** CHRIS SNOOK

no.20



SITTING ROOM

Christmas decorations in neutrals look chic. The Kubu chair, Shabby.co.uk, is similar. Pharoah rug, West Elm. Wreath, Design at Nineteen and Larry Walshe Studios. Floor lamp, Tom Dixon. Sofa, BoConcept. Cushions, West Elm and Kirkby Design. Tree, The White Company. Decorations, John Lewis & Partners. Pictures, Nina Bruun at Paper Collective. Side table (left), West Elm



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
A 1930s terraced house

ROOMS
Sitting room, dining area, kitchen, four bedrooms, two bathrooms

LOCATION
Southwest London

DINING AREA
'The kitchen is adjacent to this space so when we have guests round I can chat to them while they're sitting at the table,' says Justin. Trestle dining table, John Lewis & Partners. Holland dining chairs, West Elm. For a large dome pendant light, try Etsy

SITTING ROOM
Beautifully curated displays add impact. Sideboard, La Redoute. Hebe lamp, Heal's

KITCHEN
Simple white cabinets suit the home's minimalist aesthetic. Units and worktops, Wren. Appliances, Neff. Pendant light, Buster + Punch

BATHROOM
Floor tiles in a basket weave pattern bring interest to this monochrome scheme. Floor tiles, Ca'Pietra. Vanity unit, Drench. Mirror, House Doctor at Light & Bay. Stool, Tormar

Christmas for interior designer Justin Coakley never meant snow falling and chestnuts roasting over an open fire. Raised in South Africa where December is midsummer, Christmases were spent by the pool. 'It's all cold meats, salads and ice cream,' laughs Justin. 'I love English Christmases. Getting cosy and warm and lighting the fire when it's all snowy. I actually prefer it.'

This year, he and his partner, Michael, are looking forward to welcoming friends and family to the house they've renovated. Their 1930s terrace is the first home they have purchased in London, determined to buy after years of renting. 'We wanted to stay southwest of London,' says Justin. 'But it needed easy access into the city, and it only takes 19 minutes by train.

'This house is on a main road which put me off, but Michael said "let's look at it and keep an open mind". As soon as we walked in, we both just knew this was the one. It had a nice feeling of space. What really sold us was the ceiling height, as we are both over six foot tall.'

They knew they'd need a fixer-upper to afford to live in their chosen area. 'The sad thing was that the previous owner, in an attempt to modernise, ripped out all the period features,' says Justin. 'But that's why I decided to go more contemporary in the interior, because those features were already gone.'

The pair bravely chose to live in the house as it was gutted: 'We lived on the top floor while the basement and

BEDROOM

Black lines are softened with greenery and natural elements. Bedside table, West Elm. Wall light, Made. Shelving unit, BoConcept. Cult's Wish chair is similar

BEDROOM

The bench is for dressing. Art on left: *Coy* by Joanna Ham. *We Are One* by LouLou Avenue, Paper Collective

ground floor were renovated,' says Justin. 'Then we lived on the ground floor while upstairs was renovated. And because we were living here it took longer; what should have been a six-month renovation took a year.'

A wall between the sitting and dining room was removed to create an open-plan feel. Glazed dividing doors let light flow through. 'We also had the chimney breasts removed in the dining room and second bedroom to make the rooms squarer, so it was easier to play around with the furniture layout,' says Justin. The loft was converted, creating a main bedroom, walk-in wardrobe and bathroom, taking the house from two bedrooms and a box room to four bedrooms and two bathrooms.

Michael was happy to let Justin take the reins when it came to the interior design decisions. 'Sometimes he'll say "Oh my god, no. That's not a good idea",' says Justin. 'But 99 per cent of the time he will be like "yeah, fabulous". And he is always so amazed when it's done.'

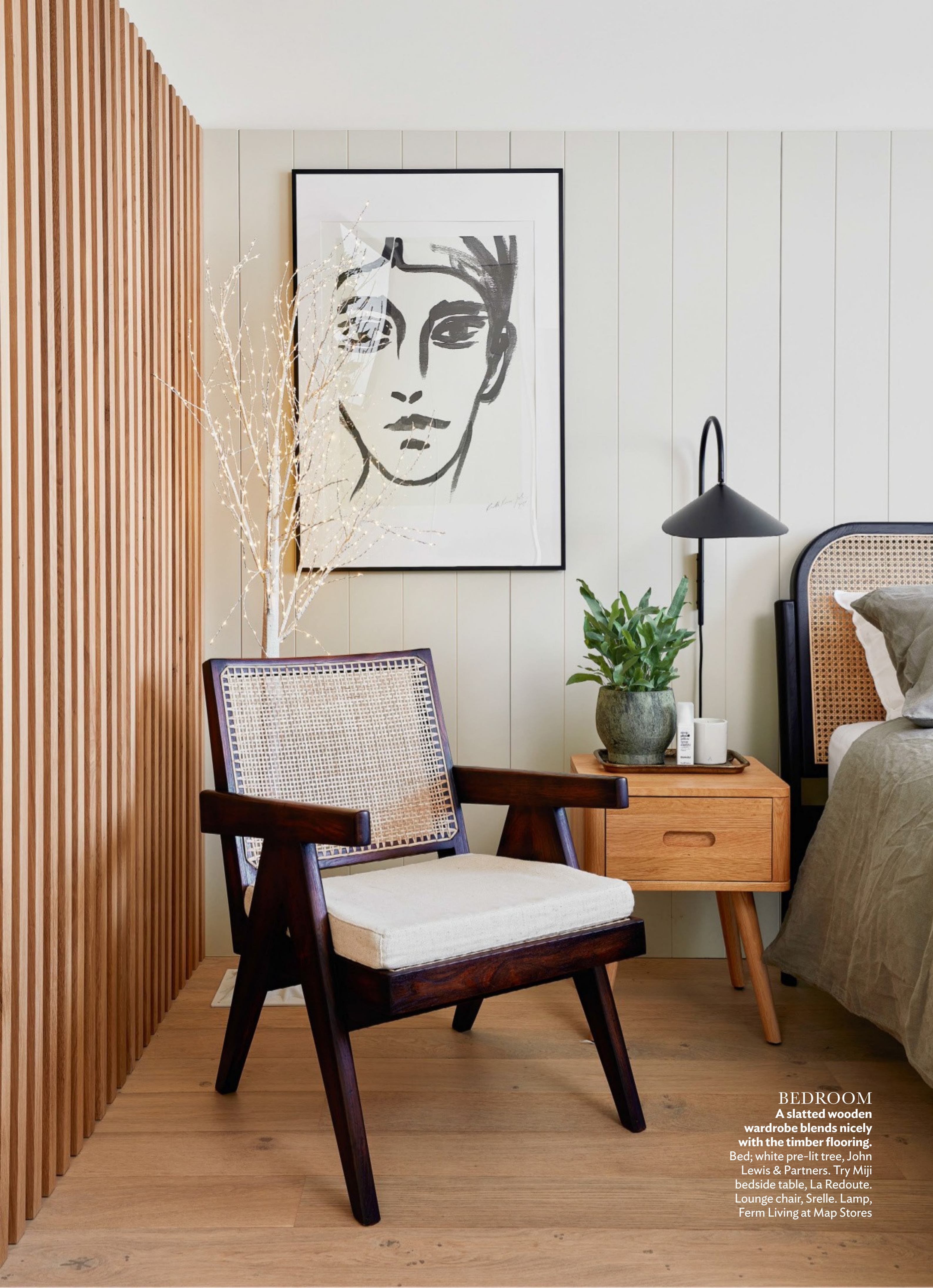
Justin found his years of experience as an interior designer actually left him overwhelmed by choice. 'Being part of the trade and knowing all of the options that are available, the hardest part was committing to a defined style. For me a space has to be calming and serene. I love, love, love colour...but in other people's homes.'

After all their hard work, the pair are delighted with the results. 'Now we can finally sit back and enjoy the space,' says Justin, 'and appreciate it for what it is.' ㉕

@design_at_nineteen

BEDROOM

Striped bedding echoes the headboard. Penn bed, Made. Duvet cover set, H&M Home. Walls in Duvet Day, Justin Coakley for Coat. Chair, Habitat. Shutters, BellaVista Shutters



BEDROOM **A slatted wooden wardrobe blends nicely with the timber flooring.** Bed; white pre-lit tree, John Lewis & Partners. Try Miji bedside table, La Redoute. Lounge chair, Srelle. Lamp, Ferm Living at Map Stores

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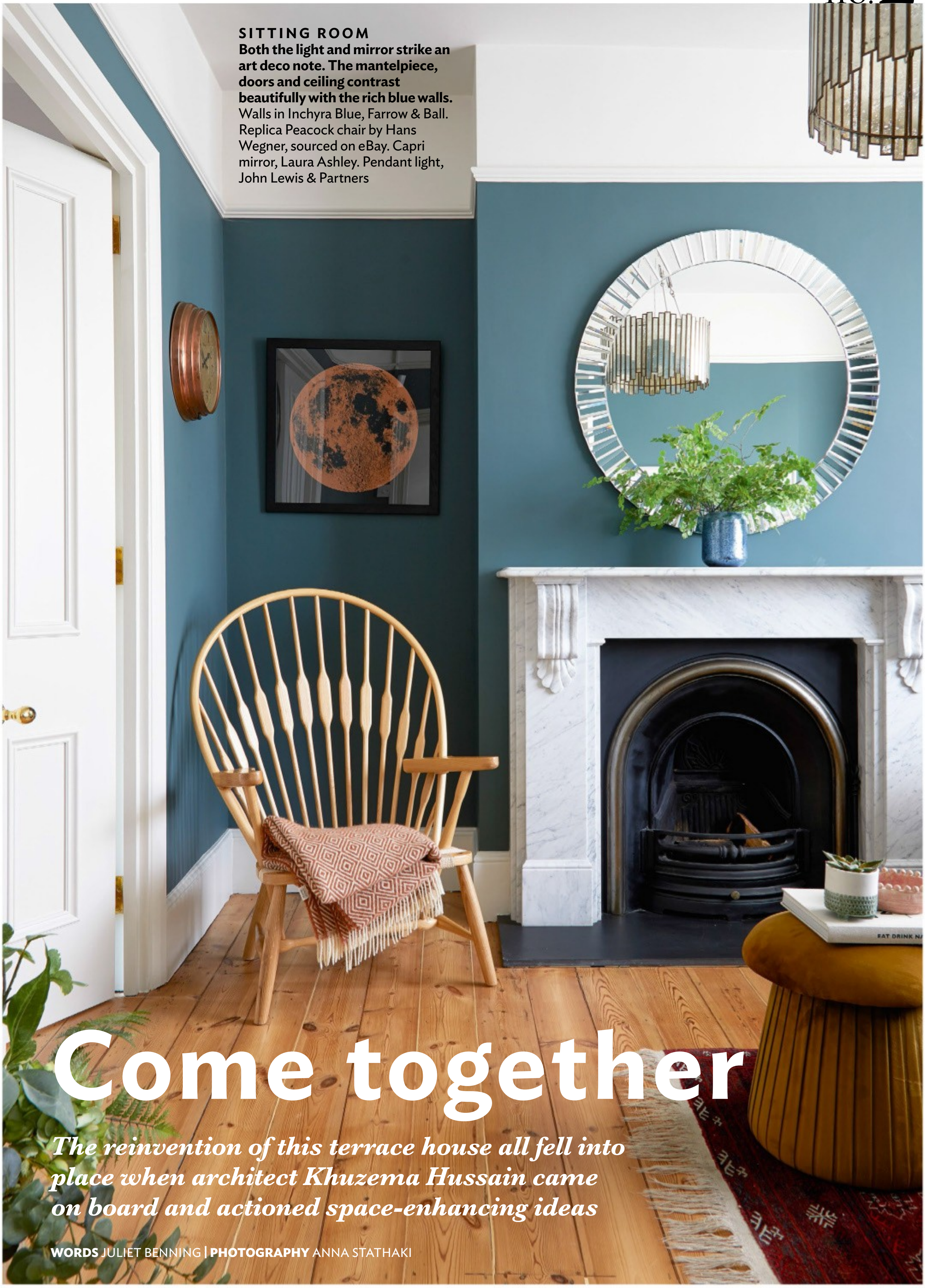
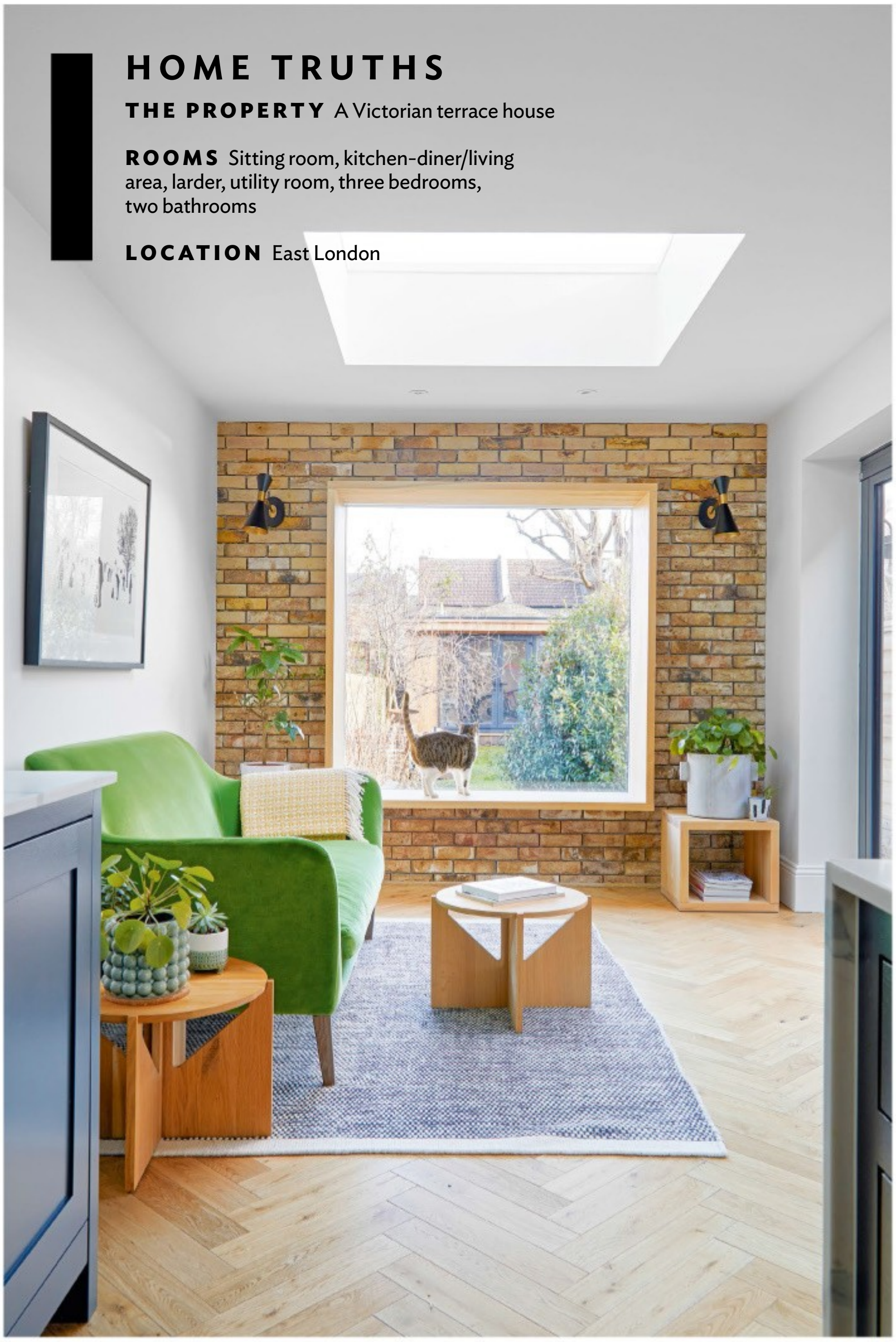


SITTING ROOM
Both the light and mirror strike an art deco note. The mantelpiece, doors and ceiling contrast beautifully with the rich blue walls. Walls in Inchyra Blue, Farrow & Ball. Replica Peacock chair by Hans Wegner, sourced on eBay. Capri mirror, Laura Ashley. Pendant light, John Lewis & Partners

Come together

The reinvention of this terrace house all fell into place when architect Khuzema Hussain came on board and actioned space-enhancing ideas

WORDS JULIET BENNING | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ANNA STATHAKI



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY A Victorian terrace house

ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner/living area, larder, utility room, three bedrooms, two bathrooms

LOCATION East London

LIVING AREA
The warm, natural tones of exposed brick and timber combine with a lively green velvet sofa to create a welcoming nook.
Wallis sofa and rug, both Heal's. Walls in Strong White, Farrow & Ball. Artwork by Seamus Ryan Photographer. Wall lights, Pooky. Kristina Dam wooden tables, Skandium

KITCHEN
A central core within the kitchen provides masses of functionality. The dual entrance ensures that the house is light and connected, while a narrow island allows the space around it to breathe.
Units, The Shaker Workshop. Quartz surfaces, Kayastone. Finn wall lights, Cox & Cox. Twig pendant, Heal's. Nuura Liila 1 wall light, Beut. Artwork by Neil McBride

DINING AREA
The side return has an entirely glazed roof, so that plenty of light gets into the centre of the house. The chairs were bought in 1960 by owner Clare's grandmother.
Dulwich table by Matthew Hilton, SCP. Windsor dining chairs, Ercol. Artwork by Paul Treasure

HOW DID YOU FIRST COME TO BE INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT? It was slightly unusual in that the clients had already had an extension drawn up by another architect for planning purposes. But when it came to building it, they couldn't figure out how to make it work. We got involved to rethink what they had been given approval for and consider the practicalities of the layout.

WHAT WERE THE OWNERS' PRIORITIES FOR THE LAYOUT? The owners wanted the house to be highly functional for family life, guest visits and working from home. They didn't touch the beautiful room at the front of the house, but wanted a larger kitchen and family room to the rear. They also needed the practical spaces, such as a larder, laundry, guest bathroom and a little study, which weren't in the original extension application. To get round this, we created a central core, just next to the staircase, where these would all be located. We also designed a large L-shaped loft extension for the main bedroom, walk-in wardrobe and bathroom.

HOW INVOLVED WERE THE OWNERS? Clare, our client, isn't a design professional, but she has more

> **'THE LARGE WINDOW AT THE END OF THE KITCHEN'S LIVING AREA IS ACTUALLY A SEAT AND A GREAT PLACE TO RELAX'**

STUDY AREA
Khuzema found space at the centre of the house for a neat study. The shelving system came as a kit and was assembled by the contractor.
Shelving system, Tylko. Carl Hansen wishbone chair, Aram. Artwork by Charmaine Chaudry

MAIN BEDROOM
Warm mid-century wood pieces fit well in this contemporary addition to the house. The art print was bought at YSL Gardens in Marrakech.
Walls in Hardwick White, Farrow & Ball. Source vintage Alfred Cox chest of drawers at 1stDibs or Pamono. Bed and bedding, Heal's

EN SUITE
The natural veining of marble lends drama to this floating double sink. In the shower, differing shades of green and brushed-brass fittings sing out amid the pale elegance of marble.
Walls in Calke Green, Farrow & Ball. Custom-made double sink, Kayastone. Wall lights, Tom Dixon. Glimpse mirror, Perch & Parrow, is similar. Green tiles and Calacatta honed marble tiles, all Mandarin Stone. Taps and brushed brass shower fittings, all Crosswater

capability than many, so she made lots of the decisions. We worked together, whereby we created a kind of furniture-floorplan template and she added to it. It was Clare who found the red shelves in the kitchen. They were actually off the shelf, but she worked with the contractor to build them and also specified much of the bespoke cabinetry.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE OWNER'S STYLE? We worked with Clare to create a warm, friendly mix of timber and a look that doesn't feel too curated. We wanted to respect the historic details of the terrace house, taking care of the cornices, timber flooring and opting for a more traditional kitchen, but we inserted colourful, modern design.

WHAT WAS MOST SUCCESSFUL ABOUT THE PROJECT? The owners love the window seat at the rear of the kitchen. We've included this in five or six projects, and whenever we do, everyone tells us it has become their favourite place in the house. We feel it works better than big bifold doors, which are very popular, but don't always suit the UK climate.

WHAT IS YOUR KEY ADVICE FOR A SUCCESSFUL EXTENSION PROJECT?
Be prepared to invest properly in the design phase of an extension project to make sure your house really works right from the beginning. We see a lot of projects that try to keep budgets low in the design phase and end up having to pay extra construction costs once they are in build. It's so much more worthwhile to plan properly from the start and get it right first time.

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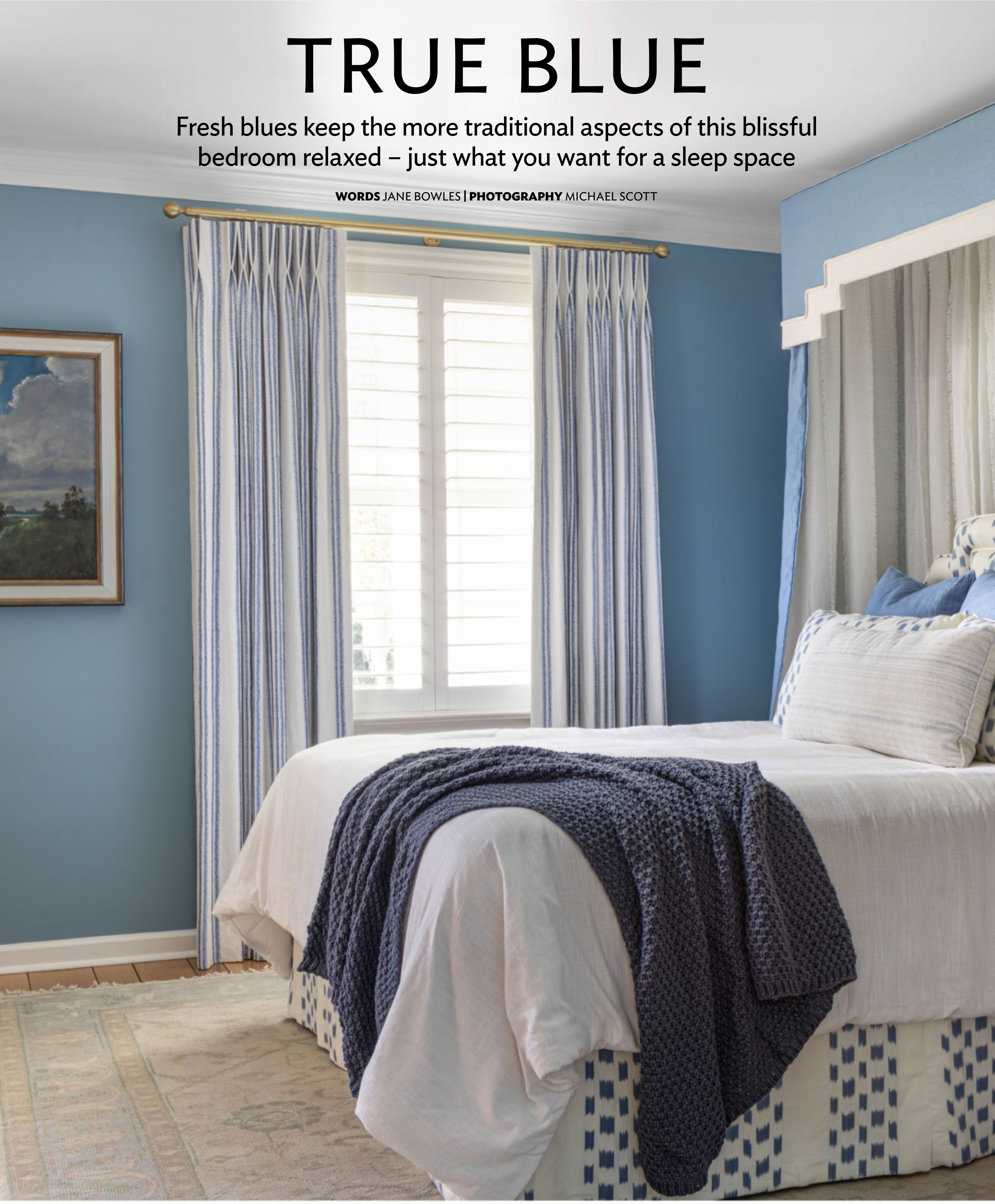
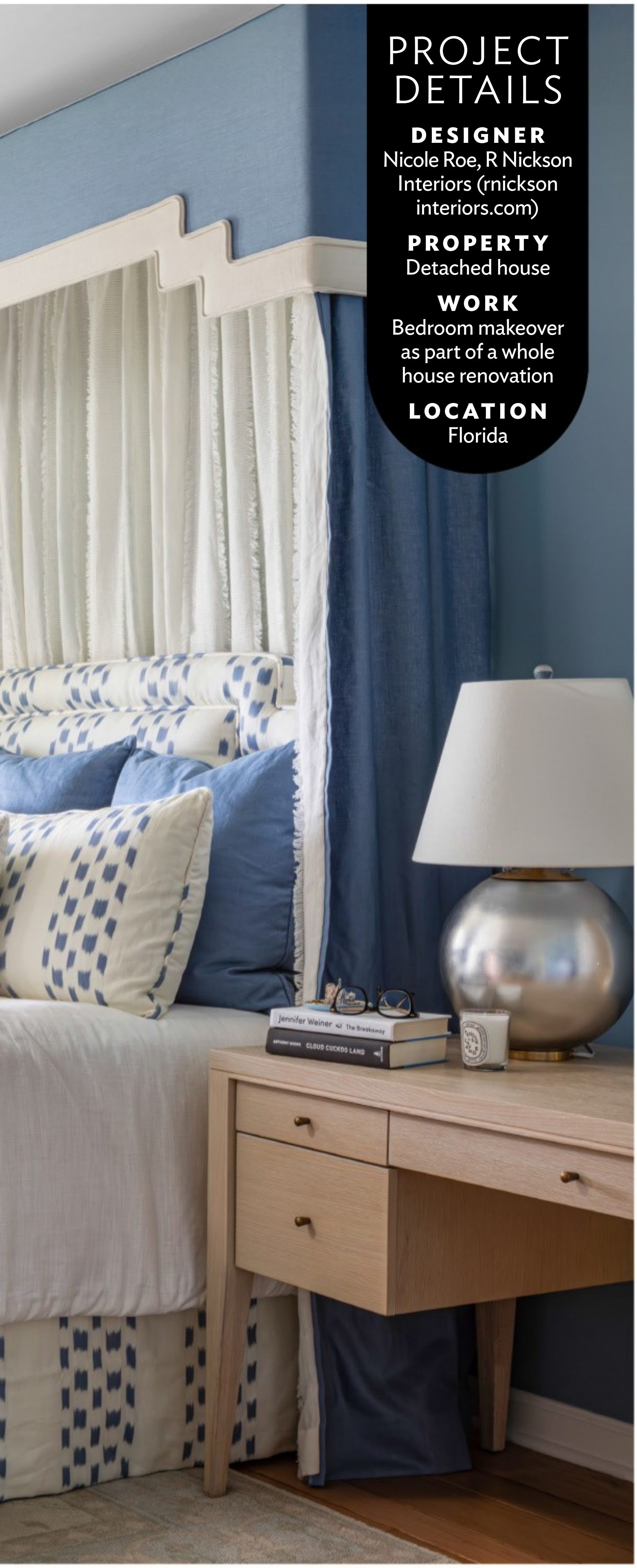


TRUE BLUE

Fresh blues keep the more traditional aspects of this blissful bedroom relaxed – just what you want for a sleep space

WORDS JANE BOWLES | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MICHAEL SCOTT

no.22



PROJECT DETAILS

DESIGNER
Nicole Roe, R Nickson Interiors (rnicksoninteriors.com)

PROPERTY
Detached house

WORK
Bedroom makeover as part of a whole house renovation

LOCATION
Florida

The brief for this bedroom was to embrace a sense of whimsy in the design, blending tradition with creativity. The designer Nicole Roe's vision was to layer elements that felt collected and curated, yet also fresh and unexpected.

1 FOCUS ON FUNCTION

Nicole began by focusing on function. 'It's essential to understand how you want to live in the space,' she says. 'What kind of storage is needed? How will the room function? Equally important is how the room makes you feel.' Nicole also recommends finding inspiration in fabrics, wallpaper and artwork. 'Let these elements guide your choices for colours and textures.'

2 CREATE STRUCTURE

The bespoke canopy and curtains around the bed gave structure to the scheme and were inspired by an original 1970s design. 'I'm fortunate enough to work with a highly skilled team who helped me bring my vision to life,' says Nicole. 'A major challenge was balancing the use of light fabrics to form the canopy's shape while ensuring the brackets could withstand tugging by the children.'

3 MIX IT UP

Nicole has combined stripes and patterns seamlessly. 'When mixing patterns, don't shy away from layering them,' she says. 'Combine larger prints with more delicate ones to create depth and visual interest. Elements like pelmets and canopies add a traditional feel, but do need to be customised with unexpected choices of fabrics to keep the room feeling fresh.'

4 CURATE WITH CARE

Nicole carefully curated dozens of fabric designs and paint colours before making a final selection. 'The bedroom was a major focus of the renovation, and we aimed to create a serene and calming feel by using flattering blue tones,' she says. 'Since we planned a traditional bed and canopy design, we chose fabrics that felt more playful and layered, adding depth and personality to the room while still maintaining the elegant mood.' ㉕

BALANCING ACT

Balancing a mid-toned blue with cream strikes the right balance of light and shade. 'The calming blue walls shift tonally with changing light levels throughout the day and the colour brings a nuanced elegance,' says Nicole. **Walls in** a similar colour to Lulworth Blue, Farrow & Ball. **Headboard** and **box valance in** Izmir Ikat fabric in Sky; **pelmet** and **canopy curtains in** Lange glazed linen in Chambray, all Schumacher. Navy Blue Big waffle **throw**, Secret Linen Store, has this look. Aladdin **table lamp**, Pooky, is similar. Try Anina **console table**, La Redoute. Similar Fading World **rug**, Louis de Poortere at Heal's

Design for LIVING

Throughout the year, this modern farmhouse is a place that feels warm and inviting and also wonderfully organised – designer Stephanie Thill explains why

WORDS KAREN WILSON | **STYLING** THE WORKROOM INTERIORS
PHOTOGRAPHY PAUL DYER

EXTERIOR
Timber cladding and industrial lighting in a crisp white and grey scheme create a welcoming entrance. For a similar bench, try Kipling reclaimed teak-root garden bench, Rattan & Teak. Brooklyn Giant Step flush-mount lamp in Pewter, Industville, would work here

SITTING ROOM
'We infused multiple textures – velvet, bouclé, rattan, wool and linen – for a layered look,' says Stephanie. Similar side table, Barker and Stonehouse. Sofa, Lawson-Fenning. Coffee tables, Maiden Home. Artwork by Rodrigo Cass, Anthony Meier via Evie Simon Art Advisory

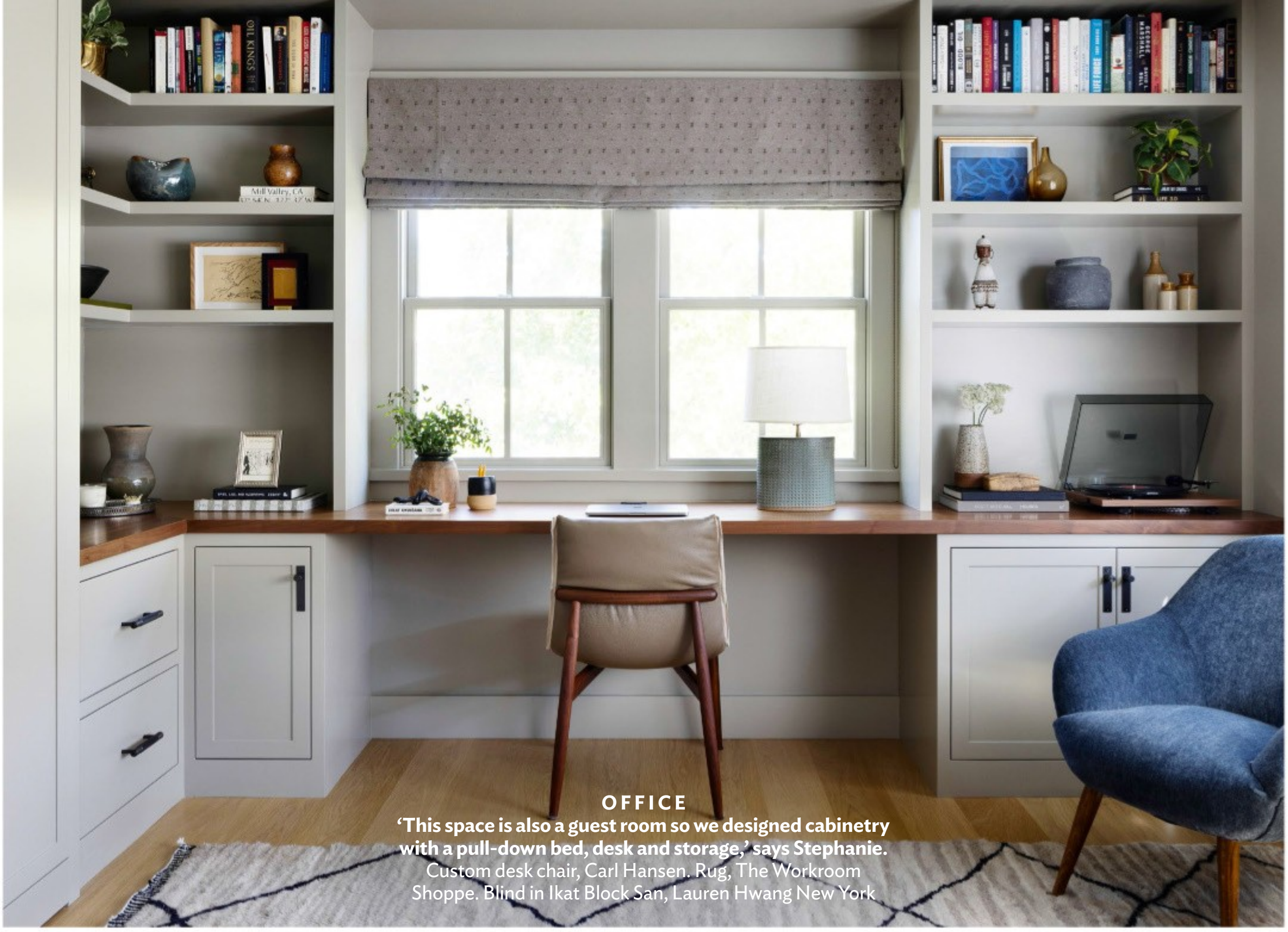
no. 23

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Modern farmhouse

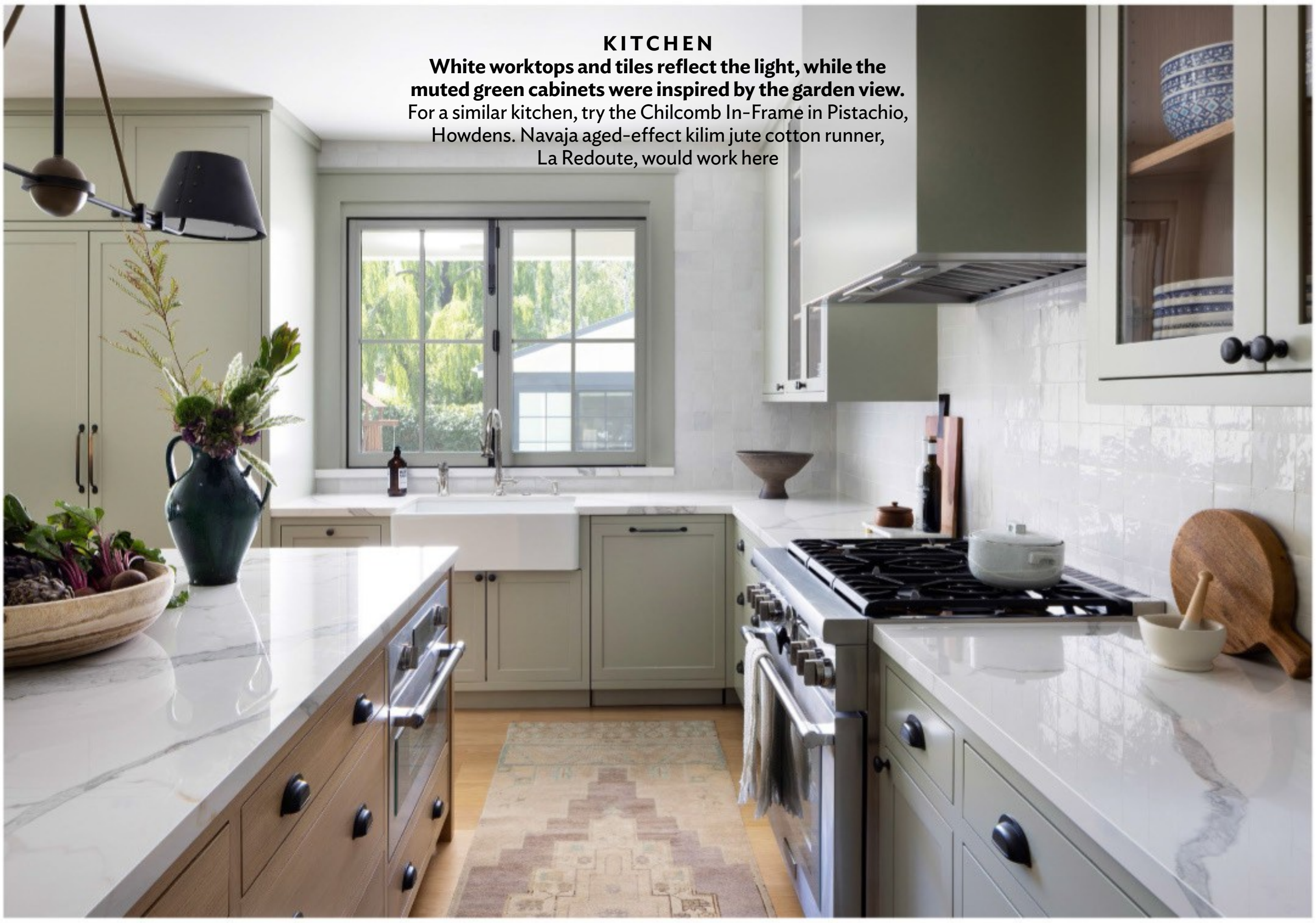
ROOMS
Kitchen, family room, sitting room, dining room, five bedrooms, five bathrooms, office

LOCATION
California



OFFICE

'This space is also a guest room so we designed cabinetry with a pull-down bed, desk and storage,' says Stephanie. Custom desk chair, Carl Hansen. Rug, The Workroom Shoppe. Blind in Ikat Block San, Lauren Hwang New York



KITCHEN

White worktops and tiles reflect the light, while the muted green cabinets were inspired by the garden view. For a similar kitchen, try the Chilcomb In-Frame in Pistachio, Howdens. Navaja aged-effect kilim jute cotton runner, La Redoute, would work here

WHY DID YOUR CLIENTS' BUY THIS HOUSE? They purchased it in 2022 with the intention of remodelling it, while living in another house in Mill Valley, California. With two young children, the 3,775sq ft property was perfect for their expanding family and they were drawn to the open feel of the indoor/outdoor floor plan.

HOW DID YOU COME TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT? The homeowners contacted us online, having found us through our shop and design studio in Mill Valley and seen our projects on Instagram.

WHAT WAS THE HOMEOWNERS' BRIEF? They wanted a clean, organised, and family-friendly home with subtle print and pattern – a well-designed space that minimises clutter. Their goal was to create a modern and comfortable living environment.

HOW WAS THE LAYOUT CHANGED? Previously the flow didn't seem to work so we enhanced the kitchen and family room layout without expanding the footprint. To optimise the square footage, an oversized fireplace mantel, which dominated the family room, was redesigned and we suggested sealing one kitchen window to increase storage space and adding a bifold window. This gave an alfresco dining feel, which made the kitchen area feel more expansive. Revamping the laundry room and adding new storage in the hallway was also key to making everyday living in the home functional for a family of four.

> 'Thinking outside the box is important – a kitchen window was sealed up to increase storage space'

FAMILY ROOM

'The owners met the artist of this commissioned piece. Their passion for art influenced the design of every area.'
Artwork by Lana Barkhordarian Burstein. Sconces, Allied Maker. Alexis chairs, Valencia Theater Seating, would work. Try Turin marble coffee table, Choice Furniture Superstore

HALLWAY

Unexpected pops of colour bring a quirky edge.
Swiss back bench, Nickey Kehoe; painted in Newt Green, Benjamin Moore. Semplice sconce, The Urban Electric Co. Painting (above stairs) by Udo Nöger, Dolby Chadwick Gallery via Evie Simon Art Advisory. 21 Series chandelier, Bocci

HOW DID YOU CHOOSE THE COLOUR PALETTE? We were inspired by the surrounding greenery and loved the idea of adding planks in the family room/kitchen to add a layer of charm and cosiness. The home has a warm, neutral palette with added pops of colour in unexpected places, like the chartreuse bench in the hallway and the bright artwork in the powder room.

WHAT WAS THE MOST SATISFYING ASPECT OF THIS PROJECT? We love how the sitting room turned out – it feels like a jewel box of a room. The home is so family friendly, yet this space feels elevated and like a really special moment for Mum and Dad to listen to music or have a cocktail with friends. Despite the room's modest size, the furniture was scaled perfectly, providing ample seating. Collaborating with Evie Simon Art Advisory, we placed art that brought creativity and soul to the space.

WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE FOR CREATING A SUCCESSFUL SCHEME? A scheme doesn't have to feel kitsch or perfectly uniform. It can feel gathered, layered and still be cohesive. A good idea is not to not focus on everything being matchy-matchy; instead focus on the threads that run through the home and the soul of the place. Hone in on what you want to feel when living in the space and work from there. ㉕

theworkroominteriors.com

> 'The goal was to make everything laid-back yet detailed and designed – we used textural elements throughout, such as planking, wallpaper, bouclé and linens, to make the home feel layered'

BATHROOM

Interest is added through subtle textures in the tiling and marble surfaces.

Williamsburg Brick Cobble Hill tiles, Claybrook, are a similar alternative. Monaco freestanding stone bath, Lusso Stone, has this look

BEDROOM

'We used a previous rug that the family loved here, which adds texture and offered a neutral palette to work from.'

Anneli bed, Crate & Barrel. Artwork by Benjamin Guffee, Stephanie Breitbard Fine Arts via Evie Simon Art Advisory. Nightstand, Faithful Roots. Cushions, The Workroom Shoppe

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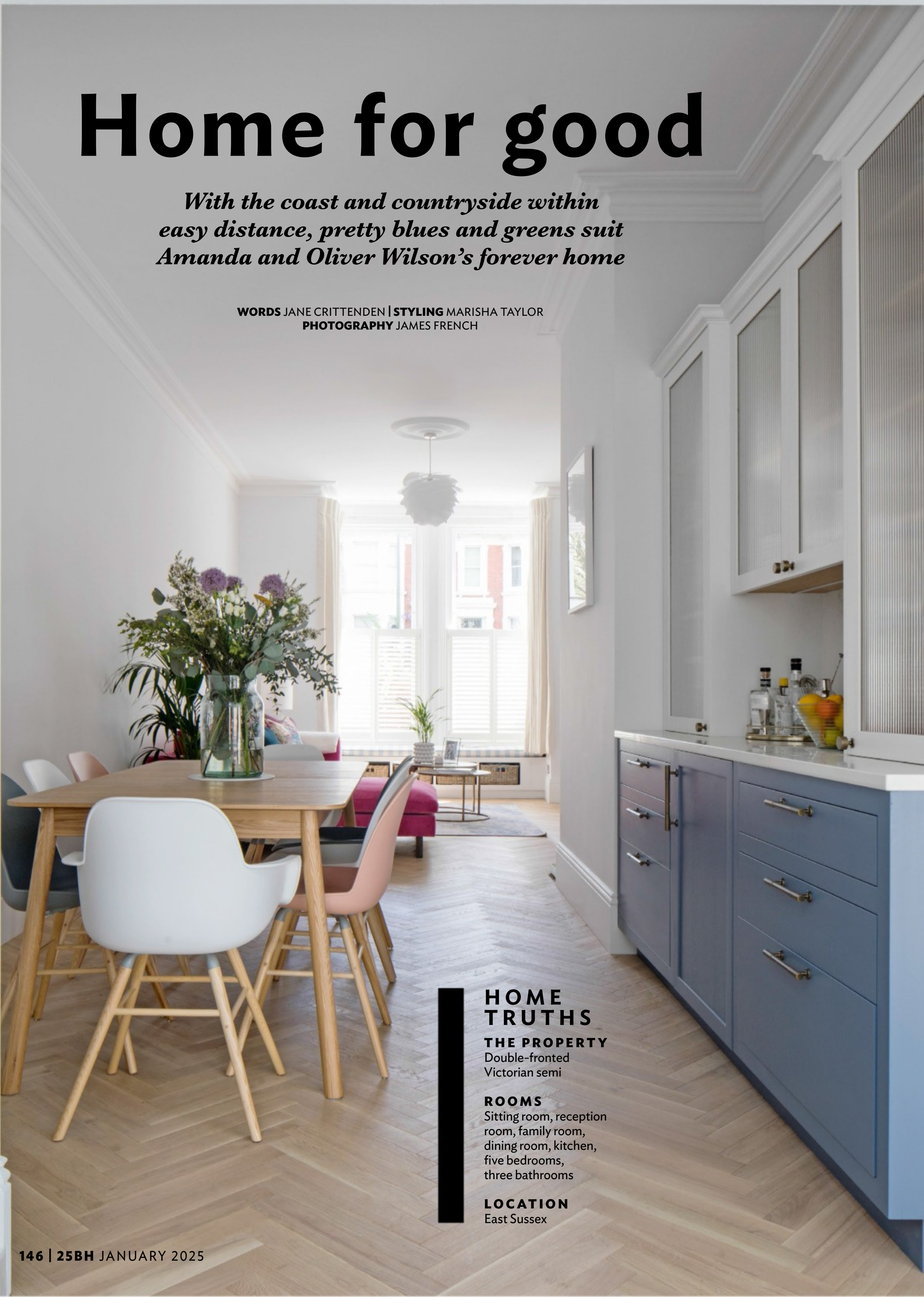


Home for good

With the coast and countryside within easy distance, pretty blues and greens suit Amanda and Oliver Wilson's forever home

WORDS JANE CRITTENDEN | **STYLING** MARISHA TAYLOR
PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES FRENCH

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Double-fronted Victorian semi

ROOMS
Sitting room, reception room, family room, dining room, kitchen, five bedrooms, three bathrooms

LOCATION
East Sussex

no.24

Amanda and Oliver Wilson live in the East Sussex town where Oliver, who works in finance, grew up. With no prior renovating experience, the couple didn't know where to start with the interiors of a grand but dated Victorian semi and sought guidance from interior architectural designer Emma Capron from Bean Interiors. 'Emma was great at prompting us with image boards to get us thinking,' says Amanda, a stay-at-home mum to daughters, Anna, eight, and Chloe, five. 'We soon realised our home was all about our love for living in this location – it's where Oliver and I met, we had our children and built our life. With the sea and the countryside around us, Emma suggested we take design cues from here.'

When the couple bought the property it had been empty for two years and needed a complete overhaul. Friends recommended Archangels Architects, who designed a loft conversion and replanned the ground floor. The laundry room was relocated to the first floor, allowing the downstairs rear utility to be rebuilt and

DINING ROOM
The bespoke dresser – in a style that matches with the adjoining kitchen cabinetry – houses crockery and cutlery for ease at mealtimes.
Dresser design and build, Bean Interiors and Square One Design Workshop. Seashell Strip Herringbone floor, Build My Home. Glimps extending dining table and Albert Kuip chairs, Zuiver

KITCHEN
The modern take on Shaker cabinetry offers a twist on the traditional, with blue and white reflecting the coastal location. The window-seat upholstery nods to beach deckchairs.
Kitchen design, Bean Interiors. Shaker kitchen in tulipwood, Square One Design Workshop. Seat fabric in Ian Mankin's Devon Stripe in Bluebell, Malthouse & Summer

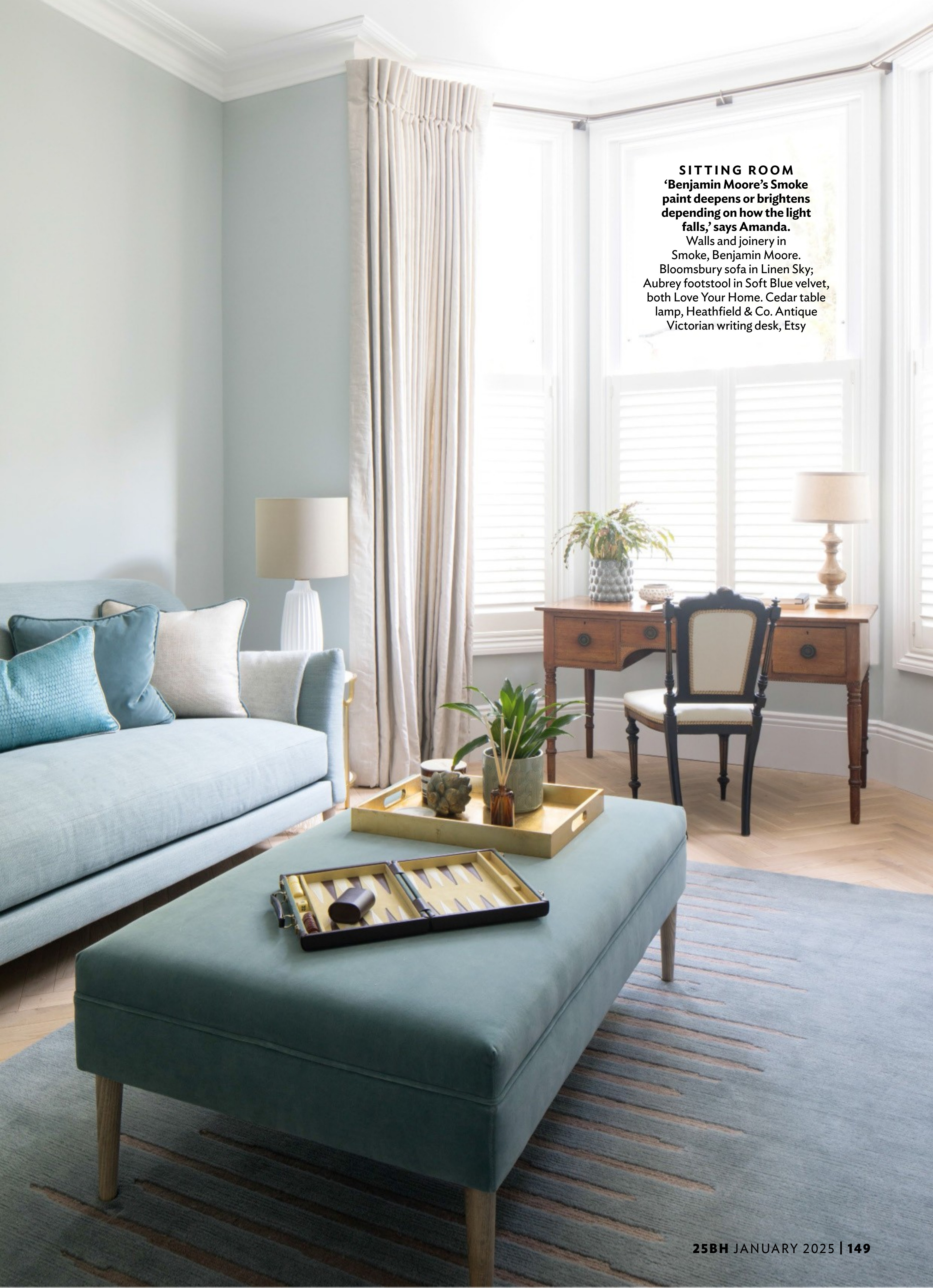
extended to the side to create a large kitchen. 'We needed hand-holding the whole way and while talking to Emma, we discovered space planning was an important part of her strategy, too,' says Amanda. 'She worked closely with Archangels Architects, designing a hallway cloakroom and moving the wall of Anna's big bedroom to give Chloe more space.' The couple also wanted a large corner sofa in the family room at the front of the house but it was too narrow. 'We didn't want to retain the fireplace so Emma solved things by suggesting we take out the chimney breast,' Amanda continues.

Archangels Architects handled the couple's planning application, put together the tender documents and recommended three contractors – they chose Build My Home. 'We liked owner, Michael Ford, who was keen, personable and friendly with a quiet confidence,' says Amanda. 'He understood the design concept and the finished quality of his previous projects was really high.'

Meanwhile, Amanda and Oliver had been talking to Emma about the interiors. 'Style prompts helped brainstorm ideas and

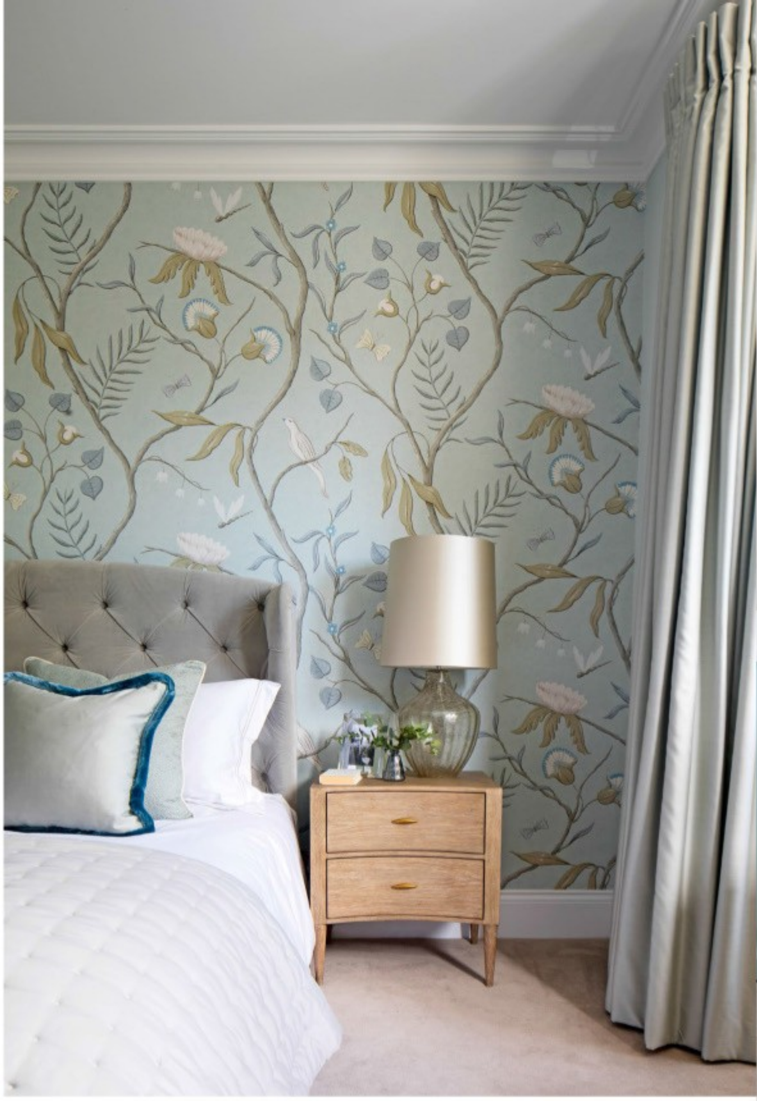
FAMILY ROOM
'We discussed having a navy sofa but Emma felt we needed contrast with the blue kitchen so we went for pink,' says Amanda.
Jasper sofa in Linwood's Omega velvet in Pink, Love Your Home. Cushion in Harlequin's Kismet fabric in Canvas/Fluoro/Brights, Malthouse & Summer. Try Gallery Interior's Hudson set of two nesting coffee tables, Olivia's

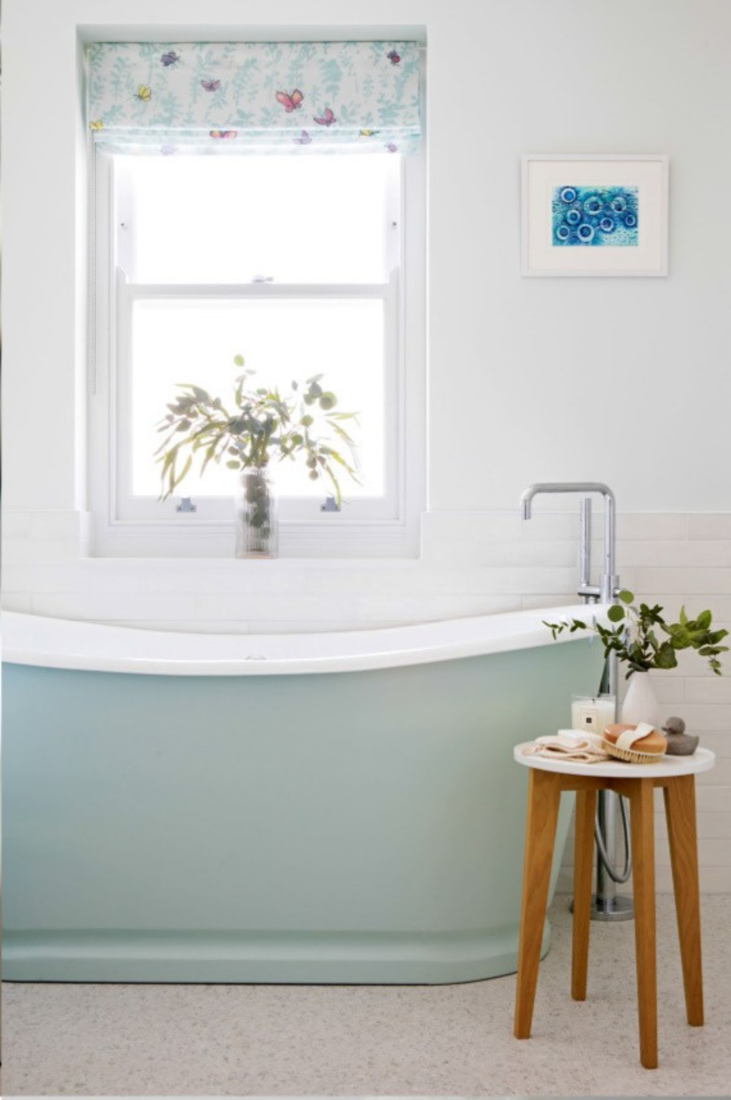
CLOAKROOM
Pink accents continue here courtesy of a statement botanical wallpaper.
Linwood's Bamboo Garden wallpaper in Dusky Pink, Bean Interiors. Woodwork and panelling in Inchyra Blue; ceiling in Setting Plaster, both Farrow & Ball



SITTING ROOM
'Benjamin Moore's Smoke paint deepens or brightens depending on how the light falls,' says Amanda.
Walls and joinery in Smoke, Benjamin Moore. Bloomsbury sofa in Linen Sky; Aubrey footstool in Soft Blue velvet, both Love Your Home. Cedar table lamp, Heathfield & Co. Antique Victorian writing desk, Etsy

OFFICE
The look is inspired by a gentleman's club and the couple chose the yellow seat for a pop of colour. 'Oliver spotted the sofa in the showroom and immediately loved it,' says Amanda. Shelving design, Bean Interiors. Wall painted in Mouse's Back, Farrow & Ball. Colca wool rug, West Elm. Isaac bench in Djion velvet, Love Your Home





Oliver and I unlocked what we couldn't previously articulate – our love for living in this location,' says Amanda.

A simplified base of neutral walls and floors runs throughout the house, infused with furnishings and decoration in tonal sky blues, sea and silvery blue-greens with pops of pink. Repeats in lighting, wood textures and fabrics draw the three floors together for a cohesive look. 'One of my favourite things is the Ian Mankin striped fabric that's like a fun deckchair print,' says Amanda. 'We've used it in the kitchen window seat cushions, the family room and the girls' bedrooms and although the pink, blue and mint colourways are not the same, I really like how the matching pattern co-ordinates the different rooms in the house.'

The finished house is definitely a forever home for the family. 'Our home is perfect – it looks exactly like the concepts. There's no way we could have achieved any of this without the expertise of the design and build team behind us.'

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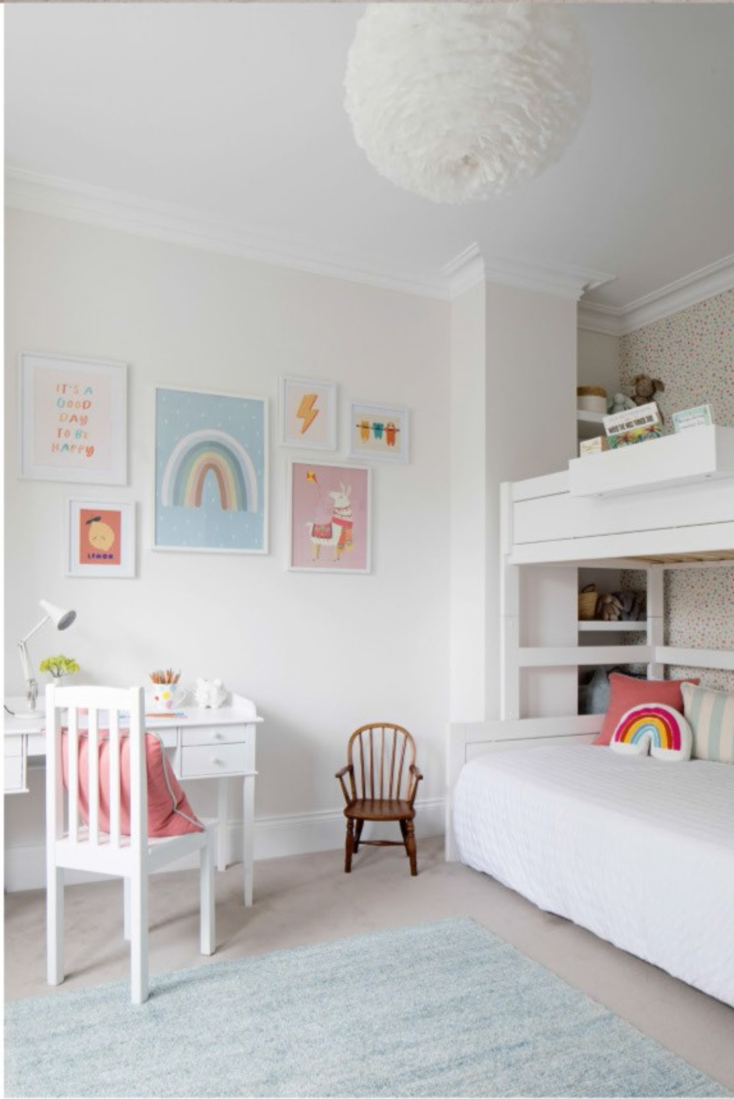
MAIN BEDROOM
Silvery blue-green tones give the space a feeling of tranquillity. Percy weathered oak bedside table, Julian Chichester. Vivienne Clear table lamp with Moonlight silk lampshade, Heathfield & Co

GIRLS' BATHROOM
The blind is in the same print as Chloe's wallpaper but in a green colourway to go with the bath. Blind made with Osborne & Little's Butterfly Meadow, Malthouse & Summer. La Rochelle bath, The Cast Iron Bath Company; painted in Blue Ground, Farrow & Ball

ANNA'S BEDROOM
'Anna's bed configuration sleeps five and is perfect for sleepovers with their cousins,' says Amanda. Lifetime family bunk bed, Cuckooland



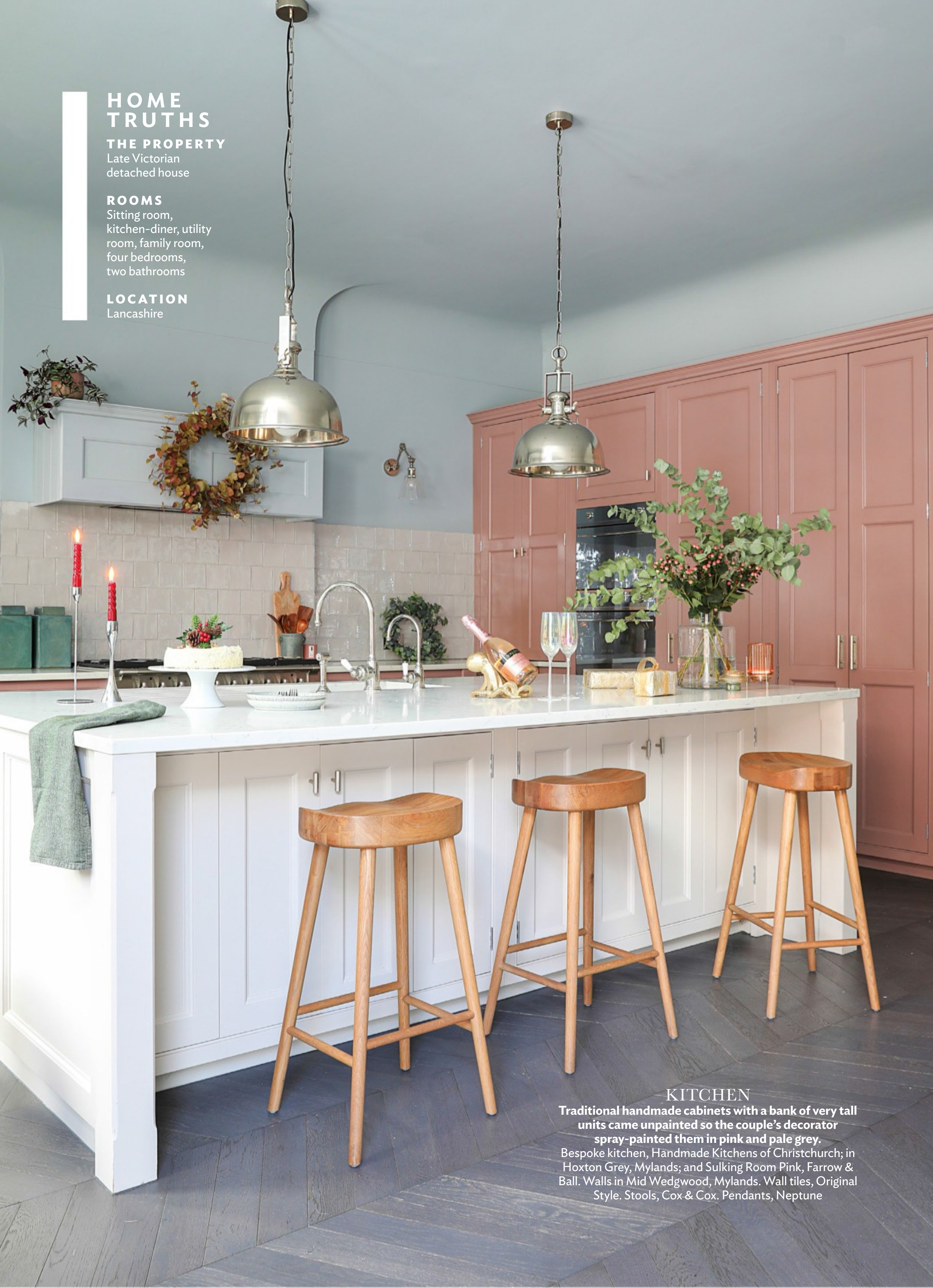
NEW *traditions*

Emma and Simon Jamieson's Victorian house is now the ideal setting for a magical Christmas after an extensive renovation let its period features shine

WORDS KAREN WILSON AND SARA EMSLIE
PHOTOGRAPHY KATIE LEE PHOTOGRAPHY

SITTING ROOM

'The sofa came from our previous home,' says Emma. 'I found a matching one on eBay and we had them both covered in green velvet, which set the tone here.' Hurricane lanterns, Ella James. Flooring, Ted Todd. Chest of drawers, Swoon. Trees (on chest), Ella James and Heavenly Homes & Gardens



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Late Victorian
detached house

ROOMS
Sitting room,
kitchen-diner, utility
room, family room,
four bedrooms,
two bathrooms

LOCATION
Lancashire

KITCHEN

Traditional handmade cabinets with a bank of very tall units came unpainted so the couple's decorator spray-painted them in pink and pale grey. Bespoke kitchen, Handmade Kitchens of Christchurch; in Hoxton Grey, Mylands; and Sulking Room Pink, Farrow & Ball. Walls in Mid Wedgwood, Mylands. Wall tiles, Original Style. Stools, Cox & Cox. Pendants, Neptune

With three young sons, Emma and Simon Jamieson wanted their Victorian home in Lancashire to flow better for family life while ensuring the period character shone through. 'We'd just finished renovating our 1930s semi when we spotted this house on Rightmove on a road we'd always loved. Everything about it – the symmetry, the long driveway, the period feel, the big garden – was tick, tick, tick. Our parents tried to deter us, calling it a money pit, but we'd already fallen for it.

'We tried to convince ourselves that the work was mostly cosmetic but realistically we knew we had a lot more to do than simply removing the red carpet from the hall, stairs, landing and bathroom. After we moved in, we made a rough plan of works that needed to be tackled, which included new central heating, windows, roof repairs and electrics. We had a full renovation on our hands and, in the end, every room was taken back to brick, starting on the first floor.

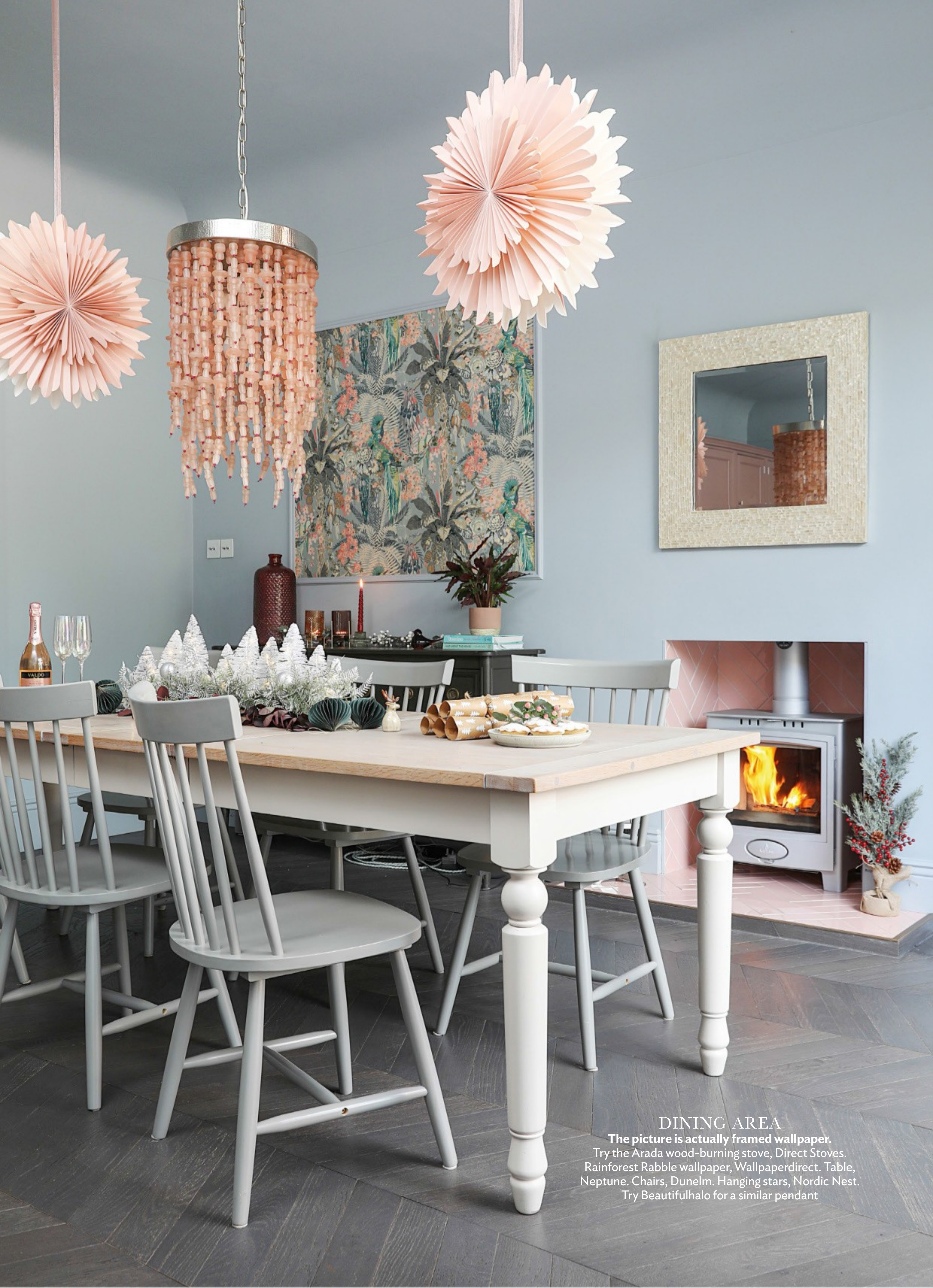
'Here, a fifth bedroom and family bathroom became an en suite and dressing room for our bedroom, and we turned an en suite off the younger boys' bedroom into the main family bathroom by moving the door. The following year, the old kitchen was turned into a utility room and the large room next door – dubbed "the ballroom" – became a kitchen-diner. The previous owners had it as a TV room so it was wasted space. You could only access it from the front sitting room via double doors so we blocked them off and opened it up to the hall with pocket doors to make the ground floor flow better. There were also two archways from the hall into the sitting room with red velvet curtains and gold tassels. It was like being at The London Palladium! It made sense to block one up and turn the other into a proper doorway.

'The old kitchen became the utility room and the large room next door became our kitchen-diner'

'Unfortunately, most of the period features had been taken away, apart from the lovely cornicing which was painted gold, but we tried to restore some character by reusing bricks and slates, fitting new timber sash windows, adding panelling and sourcing traditional fireplaces. Some original skirting boards were restored and new sections matched in, but as the doorways were funny sizes we couldn't find reclaimed ones to fit so opted for new solid oak doors instead. Neither of us is very handy, but luckily Si's brother and dad are builders. Storage is so important as I love being able to hide everything away. The kitchen has lots of cupboards but every one is used, and we added fitted wardrobes in our son Patrick's bedroom, the spare bedroom and our dressing room. I searched for an antique bookcase for the family room as the alcoves in there aren't very deep so built-in cabinetry wasn't a possibility.

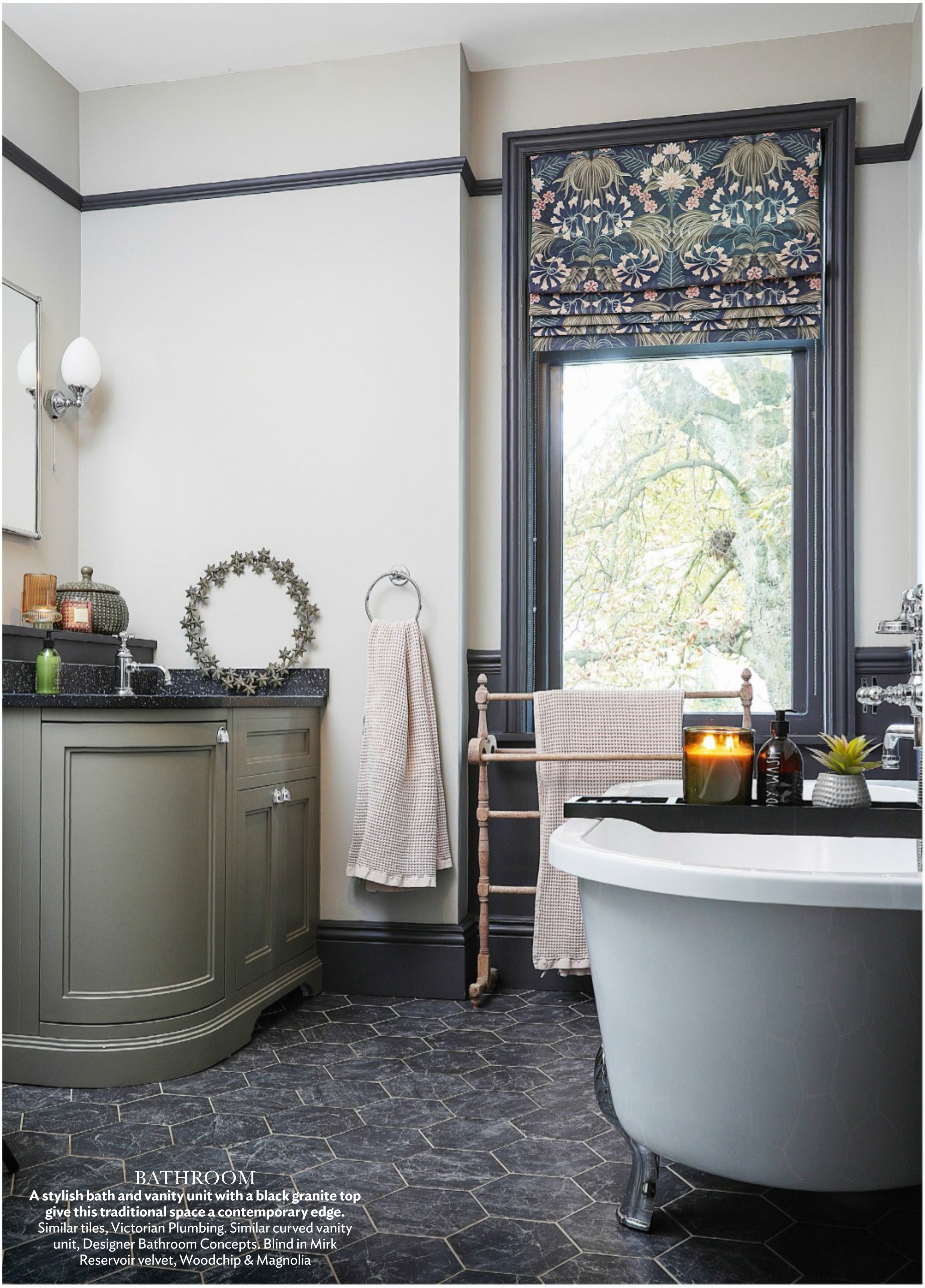
'There's still the driveway and garden to finish, and we plan to turn the annexe into a guest suite which will make up for losing a bedroom but it is so lovely having all the space to host our family at Christmas. We used to alternate between our parents' houses, but now we invite everyone here and the boys can stay at home and play with their presents and we can enjoy being together.'

See more of Emma's renovation @lovinglinden



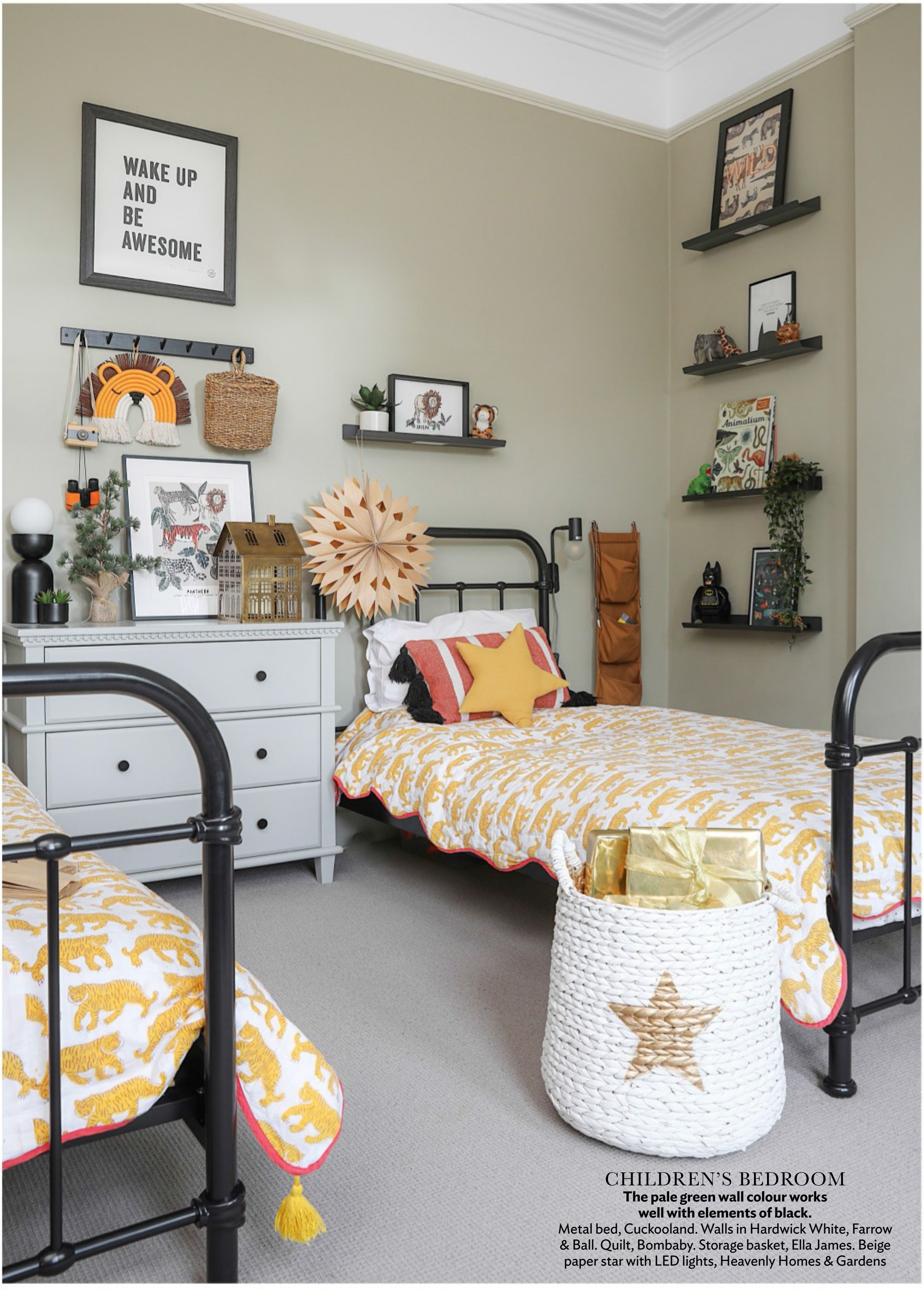
DINING AREA

The picture is actually framed wallpaper. Try the Arada wood-burning stove, Direct Stoves. Rainforest Rabble wallpaper, Wallpaperdirect. Table, Neptune. Chairs, Dunelm. Hanging stars, Nordic Nest. Try Beautifulhalo for a similar pendant



BATHROOM

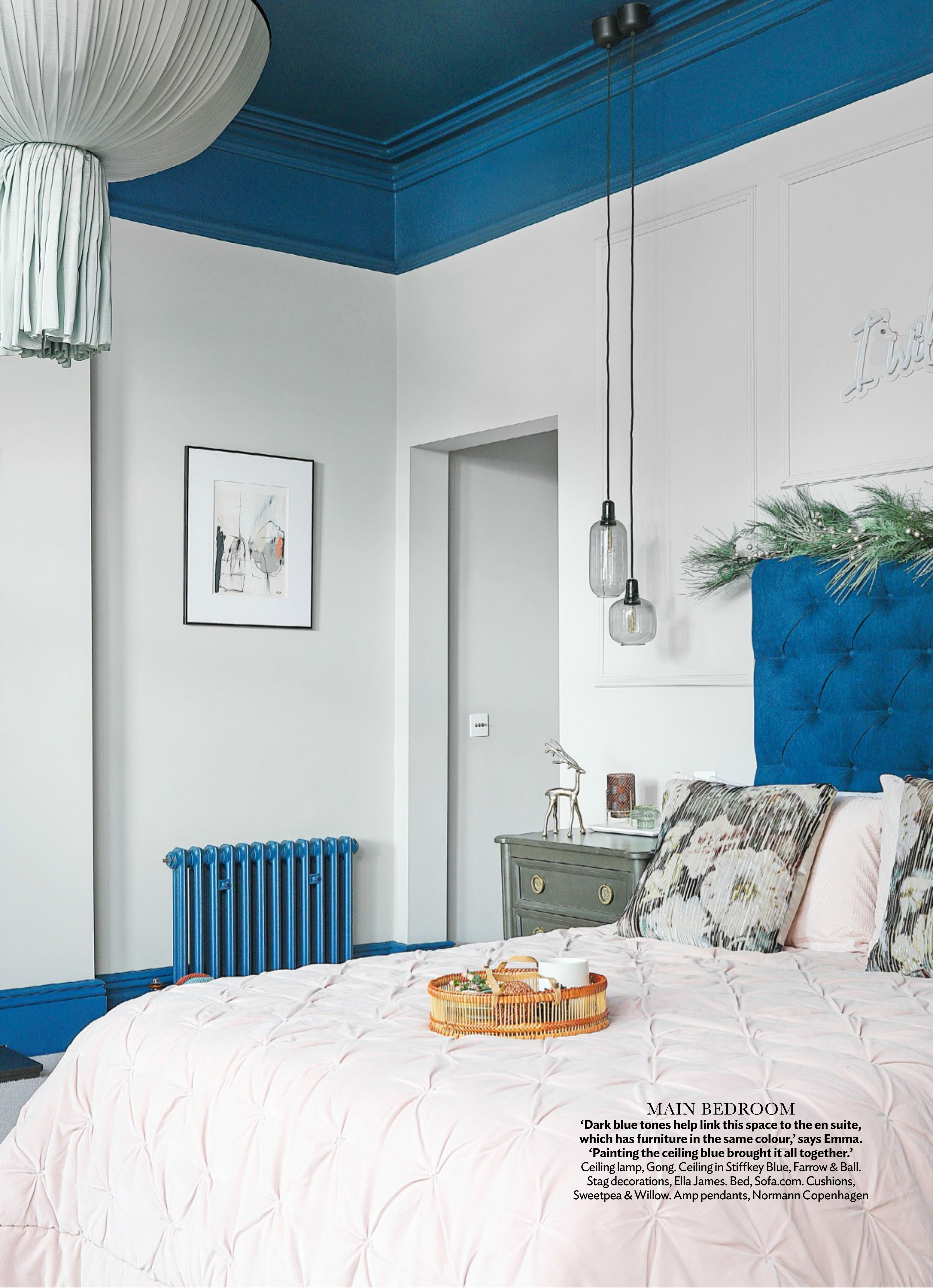
A stylish bath and vanity unit with a black granite top give this traditional space a contemporary edge. Similar tiles, Victorian Plumbing. Similar curved vanity unit, Designer Bathroom Concepts. Blind in Mirk Reservoir velvet, Woodchip & Magnolia



CHILDREN'S BEDROOM

The pale green wall colour works well with elements of black.

Metal bed, Cuckooland. Walls in Hardwick White, Farrow & Ball. Quilt, Bombaby. Storage basket, Ella James. Beige paper star with LED lights, Heavenly Homes & Gardens



MAIN BEDROOM

‘Dark blue tones help link this space to the en suite, which has furniture in the same colour,’ says Emma. ‘Painting the ceiling blue brought it all together.’ Ceiling lamp, Gong. Ceiling in Stiffkey Blue, Farrow & Ball. Stag decorations, Ella James. Bed, Sofa.com. Cushions, Sweetpea & Willow. Amp pendants, Normann Copenhagen

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STYLE *inspiration*

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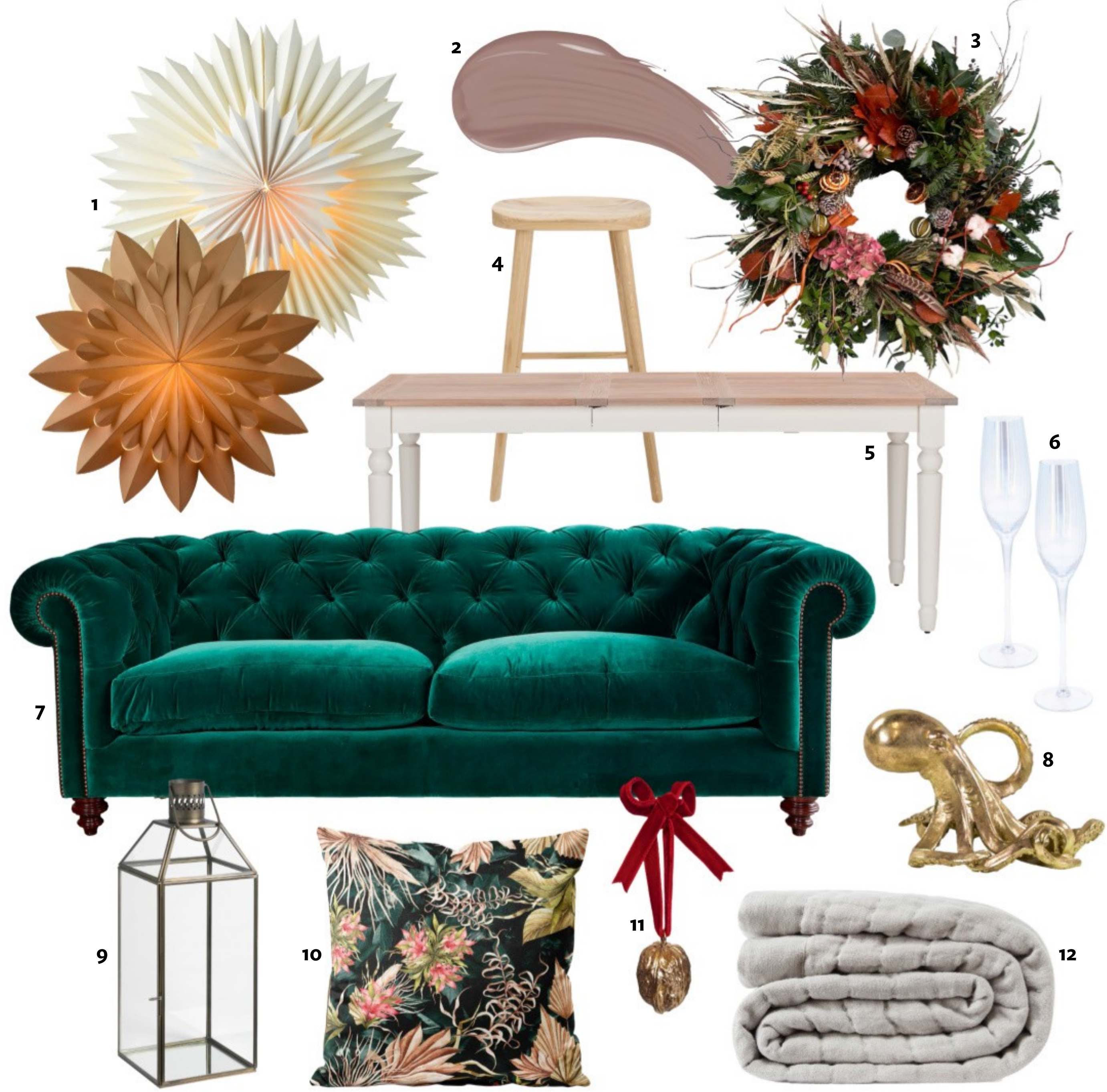

1 Light-up paper snowflake in Cream, £18.50; Light-up paper star in Cinnamon, £14.50, both Cox & Cox **2** Flora's Tale lifestyle paint, £55 for 2.5ltr, Earthborn **3** Christmas wreath DIY kit, £55, Florence and Flowers at Ingenious Gifts **4** Oak bar stool, £265, Sophie Allport **5** Suffolk extending dining table in Silver Birch, £2,150, Neptune **6** Iridescent glass champagne flutes, £8.99 each, Gisela Graham **7** Stirling Midi sofa in Easy Clean Recycled Velvet Mallard, £3,311, Darlings of Chelsea **8** Octopus wine bottle holder in Gold, £41, Audenza **9** Haversham lantern in Antique Brass, £39, The Cotswold Company **10** Leaves & Flowers maximalism print cushion, £32, Ink & Drop **11** Gilded walnut decoration in 24 carat gold leaf, £72, Webb & Gray **12** Easy Squish linen quilt in Grey, £225, Loaf

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